Sporting News

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PADRES peaking at the right time
D-BACKS sport a new look

A.L.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

February 14: Voluntary reporting date for pitchers and catchers of the Yankees and Devil Rays.

February 19: Voluntary reporting date for pitchers and catchers of other clubs.

March 2: Mandatory reporting date for all players.

March 30-31: Opening series, Yankees vs. Devil Rays, in Tokyo.

April 4: Opening day for other teams.

April 8: First game at Petco Park in San Diego; Padres vs. Giants.

April 9: Expos' "home" opener, vs. the Mets in Puerto Rico.

April 12: First game at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia; Phillies vs. Reds.

April 16-19: First series between the Yankees and Red Sox at Boston.

April 23-25: First Red Sox-Yankees series at Yankee Stadium.

April 30-May 3: First Cubs-Cardinals series at St. Louis.

June 8: Interleague play begins. Games conclude July 4.

July 9-11: Alex Rodriguez's first visit to Fenway Park.

July 13: All-Star Game in Houston.

July 25: Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.

July 31: Deadline to complete trades without waivers.

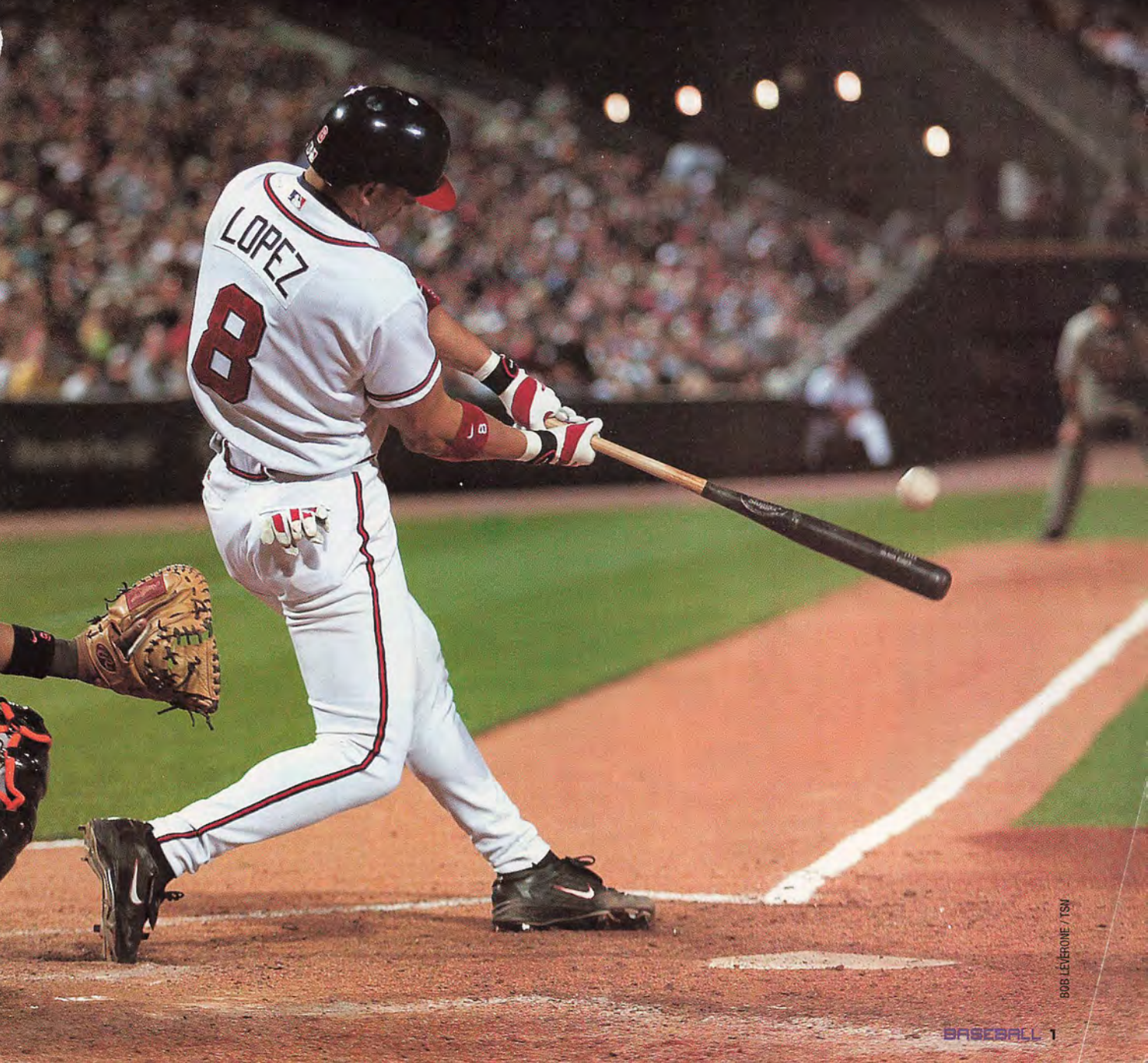
August 31: Deadline for players to be eligible for the postseason.

September 29: Marlins at Expos, possibly the final game played in Montreal.

October 5: Division Series begin.

October 12: League Championship Series begin.

October 23: World Series begins.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

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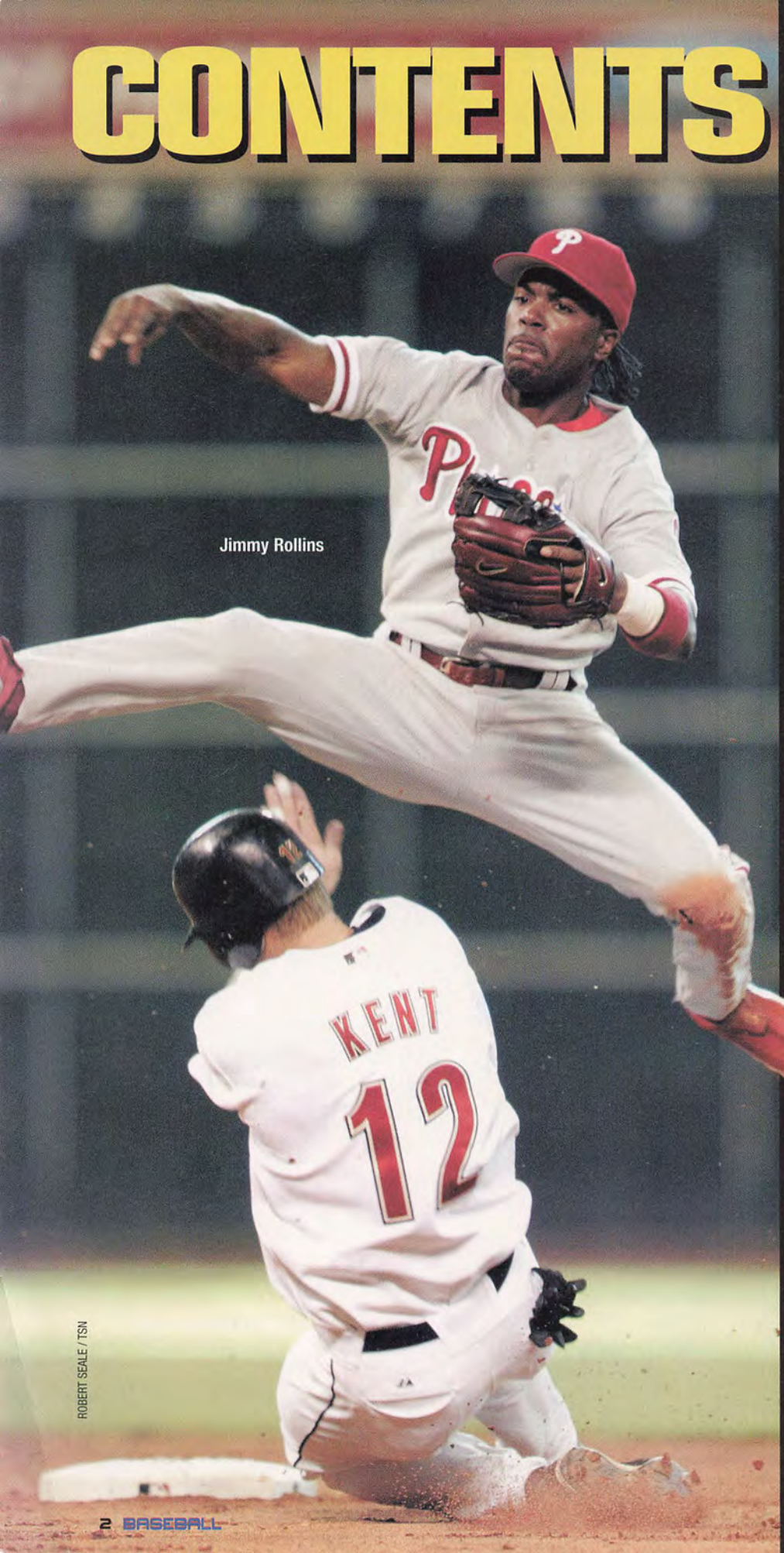

Jimmy Rollins

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

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DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN: Jeff Bagwell, Albert Pujols (inset), Barry Bonds, Mark Prior, Torii Hunter (inset), Albert Pujols, C.C. Sabathia (inset), Jim Thome, Ken Griffey.
JOHN DUNN FOR TSN: Ichiro Suzuki (inset).
BERNIE NUNEZ FOR TSN: Derek Jeter (inset).
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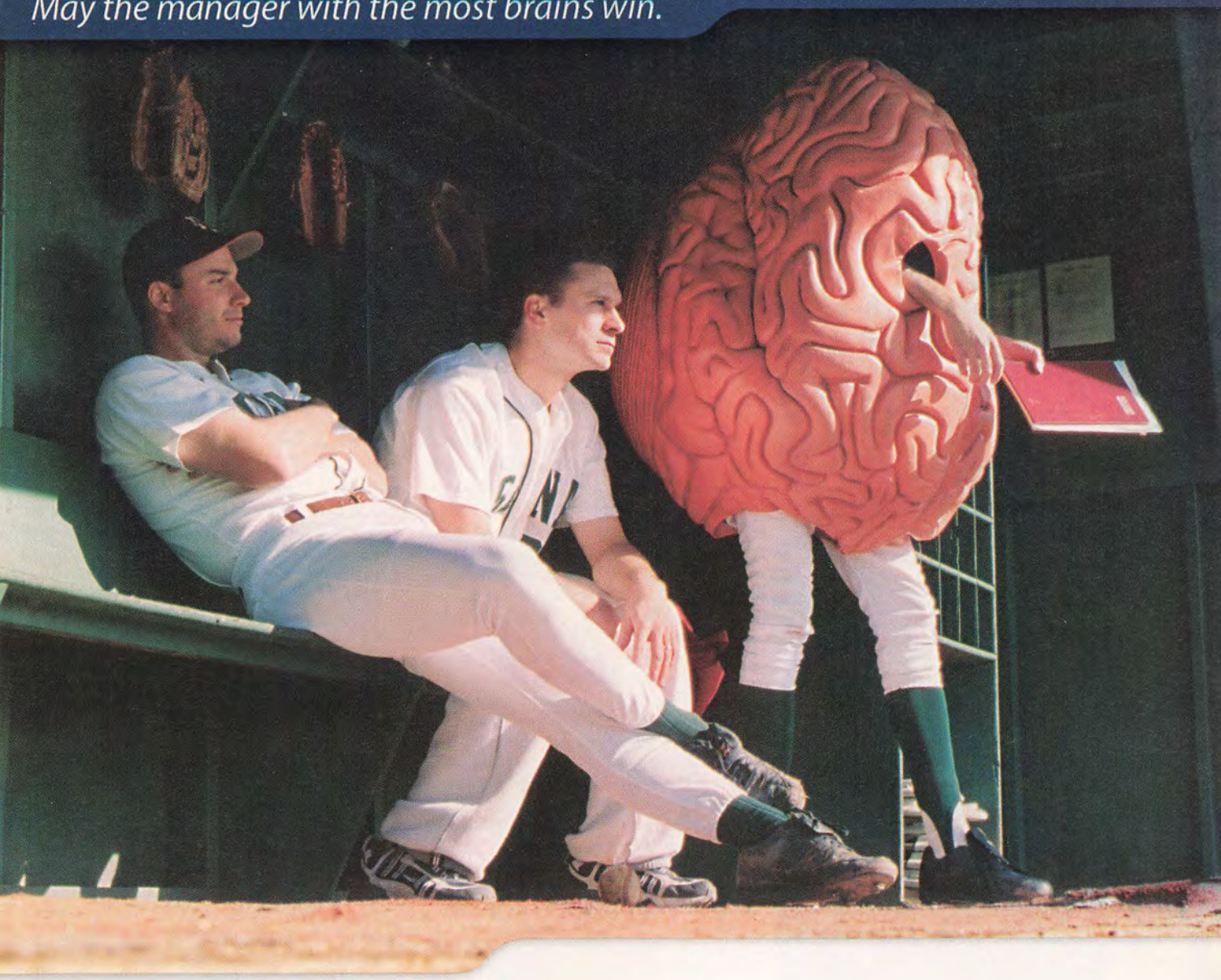
DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN: Mike Sweeney (inset), Alex Rodriguez (inset).
GAIL BURTON / WIDE WORLD PHOTOS: Miguel Tejada (inset), Javy Lopez (inset).

May the manager with the most brains win.



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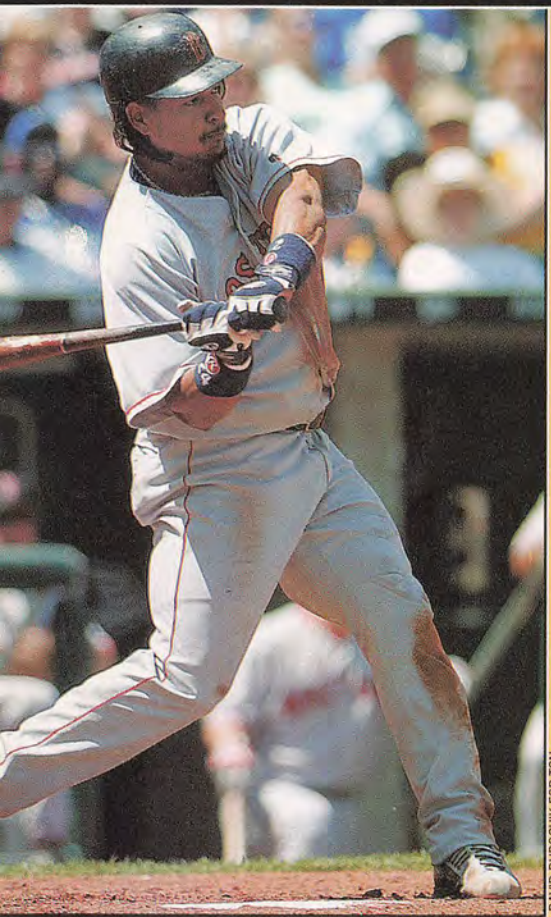


DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

Manny Ramirez (above) and Corey Patterson (below) will play key roles for the Red Sox and Cubs in their bid to reach a World Series.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Q&A

Senior writer Ken Rosenthal fields questions from Sporting News editors about the upcoming season.

Based on last season and the offseason, it looks like the Red Sox and Cubs are the teams to beat. But that's on paper. In reality, on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being a sure thing, what is the chance that both teams will reach the World Series?

I would put the Red Sox at 8 and the Cubs at 7—I genuinely believe that both teams stand an excellent chance of making the Series. The Red Sox's additions of ace starter Curt Schilling and closer Keith Foulke make them a significantly better club than the one that reached Game 7 of the American League Championship Series last season. I'm not convinced that Foulke, a changeup specialist, is a sure thing at Fenway, and I'm not at all certain that first-year manager Terry Francona will get his fractious team to band together the way that Grady Little did. But the Red Sox still should be very, very good.

As for the Cubs, the biggest concern is that several of their veteran position players are aging, increasing the possibility of injury or ineffectiveness. Still, the signings of righthander LaTroy Hawkins and lefthander Kent Mercker will deepen the bullpen, and the additions of first baseman Derrek Lee and infielder Todd Walker, combined with the return of center fielder Corey Patterson, should make for a more dynamic offense.

Two years ago, the Angels went from last place in the American League West to World Series champs. Last year, the Marlins went from fourth in the National League East to the title. Are there any teams primed to make a jump this season?

Two teams stand out—the Blue Jays and Padres. The Jays play in the same division as the Yankees and Red Sox, but they improved from 78 wins in 2002 to 86 last season and I like their revamped rotation, featuring Roy Halladay, Miguel Batista, Ted Lilly and Pat Hentgen. The Padres face a more difficult climb after finishing last in the N.L. West, but they have built a strong bullpen, assembled a potent offense and acquired Ramon Hernandez to fill their void at catcher.

Will Barry Bonds, who turns 40 in July, finally start to show his age? How many homers will he hit? How many walks? Will his on-base percentage be better than .500 for a fourth consecutive season?

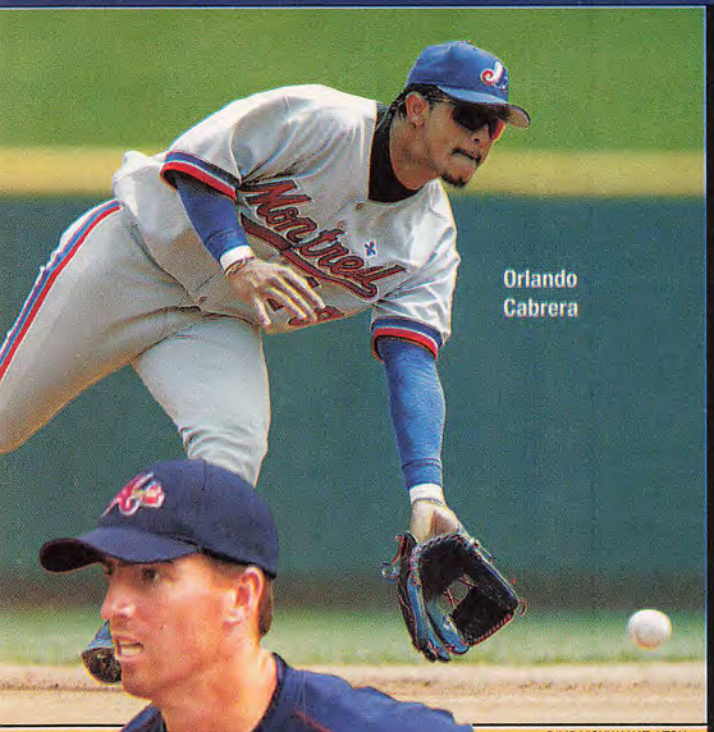
Bonds' on-base percentage dropped 53 points to .529 last season and his slugging percentage 50 points to .749. Even if he experiences another slight decline, he will remain the most feared slugger in the game. I think Bonds will be good for 40 homers, 150 walks and, yes, a .500 OBP for the fourth straight year. Babe Ruth posted a .500 OBP five times, but never in three consecutive seasons.

Give us one player who will have an impact season that we have heard little about. And please, don't say Kazuo Matsui. He has yet to step on a playing field as a major leaguer and we're already tired of the hype around him.

Matsui might not even win N.L. Rookie of the Year. The Braves plan to start rookie Adam LaRoche at first base, and club officials believe he can be John Olerud with more power. LaRoche hit 20 home runs between Class AA and AAA last season, then hit impressively in the Puerto Rican winter league. He's also a gifted defender.

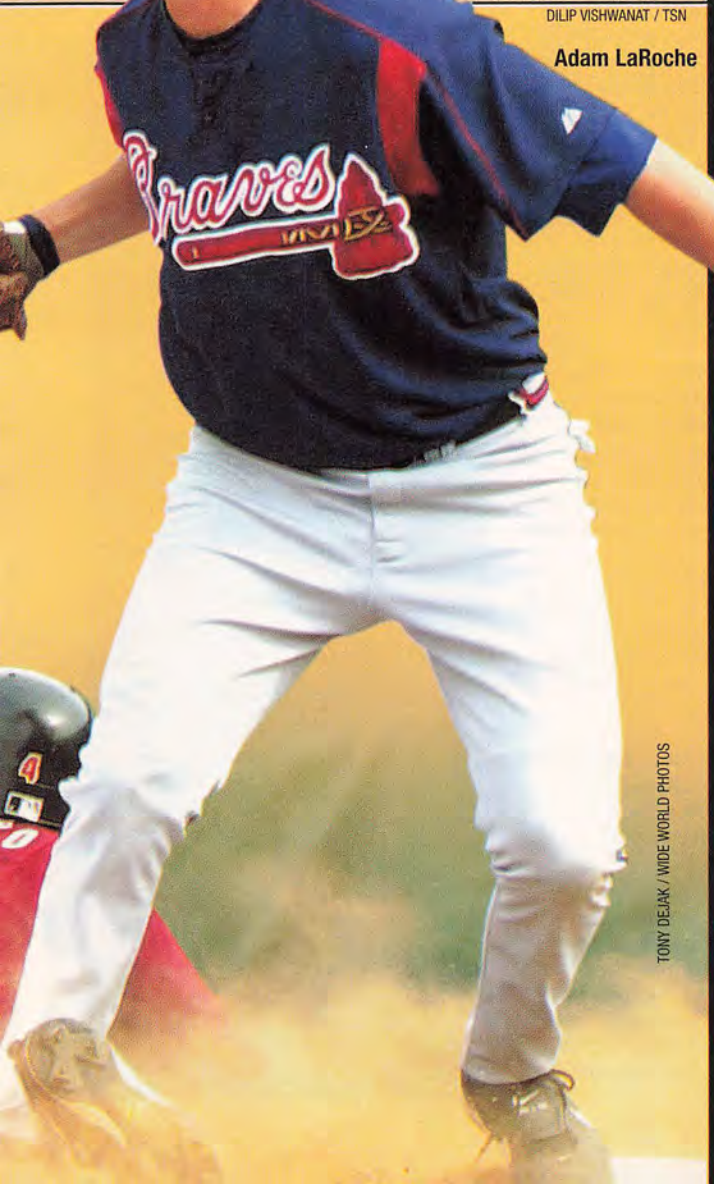
TSN'S POWER POLL

1. **Red Sox.** If this group can't end curse, none can.
2. **Cubs.** Lee and Hawkins add to last year's mix.
3. **Angels.** Upgraded rotation will revive spirit of '01.
4. **Phillies.** Only Bowa can stop them.
5. **Astros.** Bullpen a question without Wagner.
6. **Yankees.** Watch them implode.
7. **Giants.** Best of a weakened division.
8. **Marlins.** Pitching remains largely intact.
9. **Braves.** Let's see Cox win with *this* club.
10. **Twins.** Welcome, Joe Mauer.
11. **Padres.** This year's surprise team?
12. **Blue Jays.** Could win 90 games and miss playoffs.
13. **Athletics.** Comeback season by Dye a must.
14. **Royals.** Improved bullpen will help.
15. **Cardinals.** Pitching still isn't good enough.
16. **Mariners.** Headed for a fall, not Fall Classic.
17. **Orioles.** Who, pray tell, will pitch?
18. **Diamondbacks.** Schilling gone, but young talent remains.
19. **White Sox.** Numerous defections will hurt.
20. **Dodgers.** Pressure on Evans, Tracy to produce.
21. **Mets.** At least they will catch the ball.
22. **Devil Rays.** Looking at 70 wins for first time.
23. **Rangers.** Love the infield, hate the pitching.
24. **Rockies.** Taking gamble by closing with Chacon.
25. **Expos.** No Vladdy, no Vazquez, no hope.
26. **Indians.** One more painful season before contention.
27. **Brewers.** Infield prospects won't be ready until '05.
28. **Reds.** Former G.M. Bowden left franchise a mess.
29. **Pirates.** Kendall, Benson next to go.
30. **Tigers.** Could improve by 19 games and still lose 100.



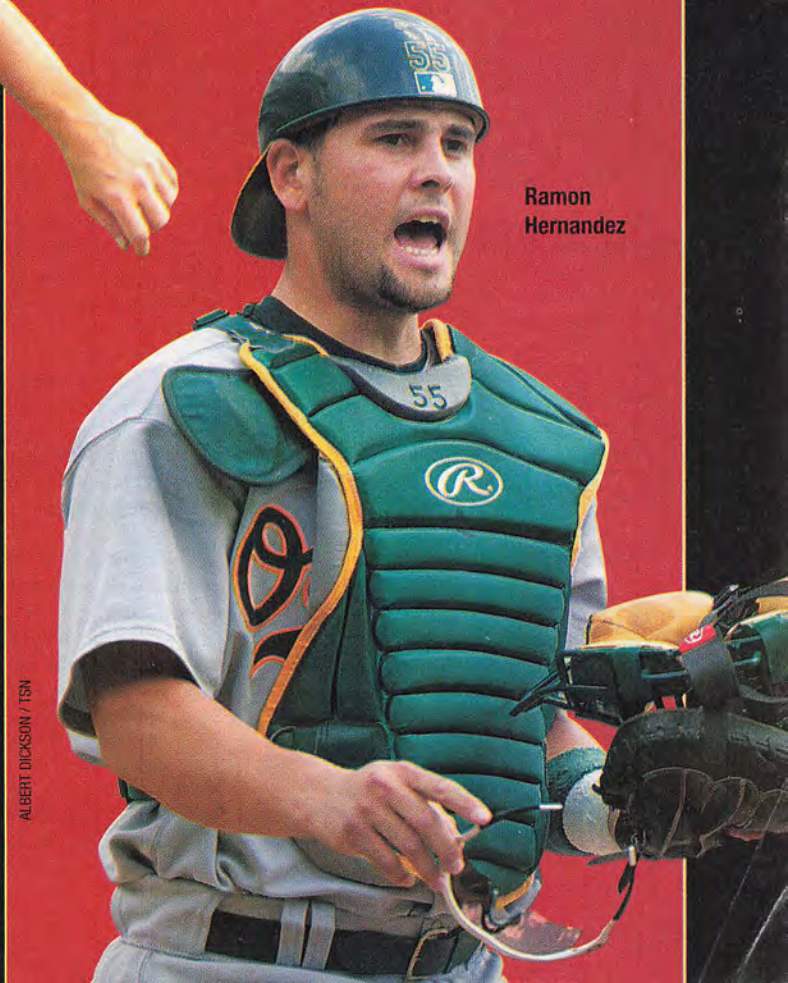
Orlando Cabrera

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN



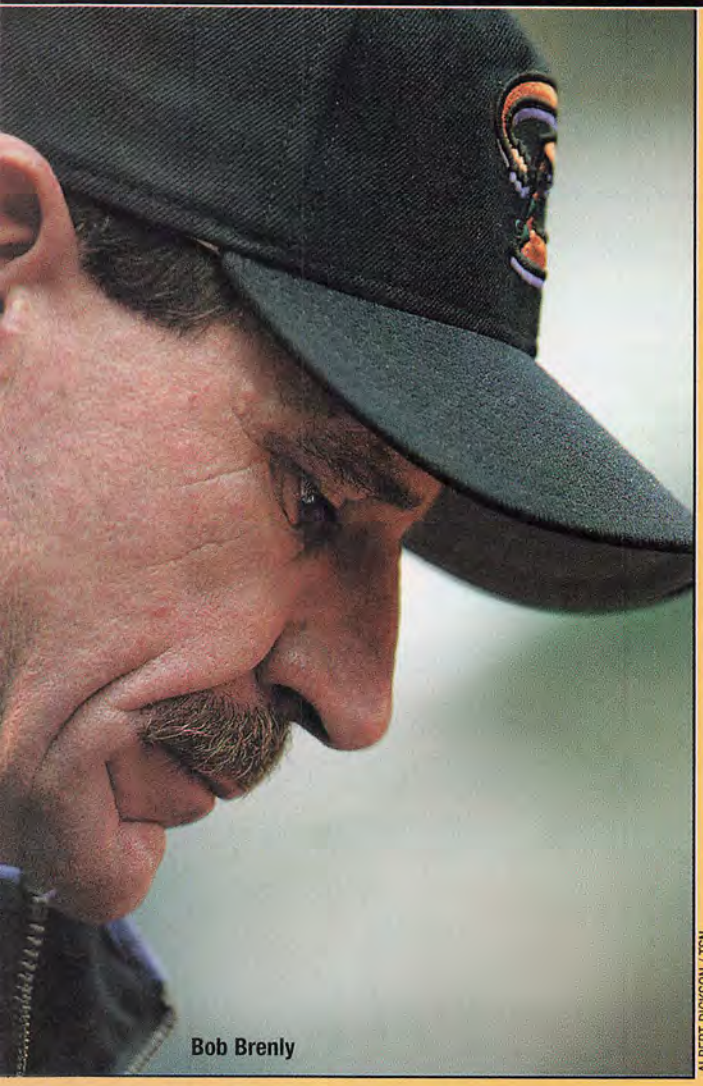
Adam LaRoche

TONY DEJAK / WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



Ramon Hernandez

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN



Bob Brenly

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Q&A continued

Are there any perennial contenders that you see stumbling?

The Braves are the obvious choice; even if LaRoche is legit, he, catcher Johnny Estrada and third baseman Mark DeRosa begin the season unproven as regulars, and J.D. Drew can't be expected to match Gary Sheffield's production in right field. The Giants also could stumble; they're going with rookie Cody Ransom instead of the departed Rich Aurilia at shortstop, they've subtracted Tim Worrell and Joe Nathan from their bullpen and I don't think they've got enough offense around Bonds.

Which managers enter the season worrying about their immediate job security?

The Diamondbacks' Bob Brenly is in the most trouble; he wears out his bullpen and has lost respect in the clubhouse. The Pirates' Lloyd McClendon is in the final year of his contract, but what would be the point of firing him? The Yankees' Joe Torre, the Astros' Jimy Williams, the Dodgers' Jim Tracy and the Padres' Bruce Bochy all could be in jeopardy if their teams stumble.

Not including Red Sox-Yankees, give us two games—one A.L., one N.L.—that you've already circled on your calendar.

The first one I've circled is April 12, opening day at the new ballpark in Philadelphia. Unlike recent openings in Detroit, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee and Cincinnati, this one truly marks the beginning of a new era. The Phillies have timed their renaissance perfectly.

Another date I'm anticipating is August 23, Miguel Tejada's return to Oakland. Free-agent defectors often are not well-received when they return to their previous homes, but I think it will be different for Tejada. He was beloved in Oakland, and it's not as if he left for the rival Mariners. His new team, the Orioles, plays in a different division on the other side of the country.

How will the new drug-testing guidelines affect the way the game is played, if at all?

I don't think the guidelines will affect the way the game is played. I do think we will see the continuation of a trend that began last season, when certain players reported to spring training with slimmer physiques, possibly because they had curtailed their use of performance-enhancing drugs. Players will be penalized and identified publicly under the next phase of the plan, but I'd be stunned if any of the game's biggest stars was dumb enough to get caught.

The Yankees' clubhouse will be highly combustible, with Gary Sheffield, Kevin Brown and Kenny Lofton. How soon before this team becomes the 21st-century version of the Bronx Zoo?

As you read this, the Zoo surely is open for business. Sheffield will be a regular on the back pages of the New York tabloids, saying one ridiculous thing or another. And Brown, sullen and injury-prone, almost certainly will resent the scrutiny that comes with being a Yankee. It seems that owner George Steinbrenner has assembled his roster with the sole intent of torturing Torre in his final season as manager.

Which players will be the hot guys at the trade deadline?

Reds center fielder Ken Griffey Jr. likely will be the biggest name if he puts together a big first half, and the Pirates will continue trying to move catcher Jason Kendall. Expos pitcher Livan Hernandez, second baseman Jose Vidro and shortstop Orlando Cabrera all could be dealt. Brewers outfielder Geoff Jenkins will be available if he fails to sign a contract extension. The Pirates would love righthander Kris Benson to re-establish himself and raise his trade value.

Rookies to watch

Jason Bay, OF, Pirates. Will play every day in low-pressure Pittsburgh.

Edwin Jackson, RHP, Dodgers. Fireballer's time in L.A. could come as early as midseason.

Adam LaRoche, 1B, Braves. Won't need to do too much to be an improvement on the Robert Fick/Julio Franco platoon.

Kazuo Matsui, SS, Mets. OK, so he really is a veteran disguised as a rookie. But he is entering his first season playing in the United States.

Joe Mauer, C, Twins. Defensive skills are big-league; question is, will the 21-year-old hit enough?

Alexis Rios, OF, Blue Jays. Could make A.L. Rookie of the Year run if promoted early enough.

Doug Waechter, RHP, Devil Rays. Proved he has big-league stuff in two-hit shutout against the Mariners last September.

—Tom Gatto

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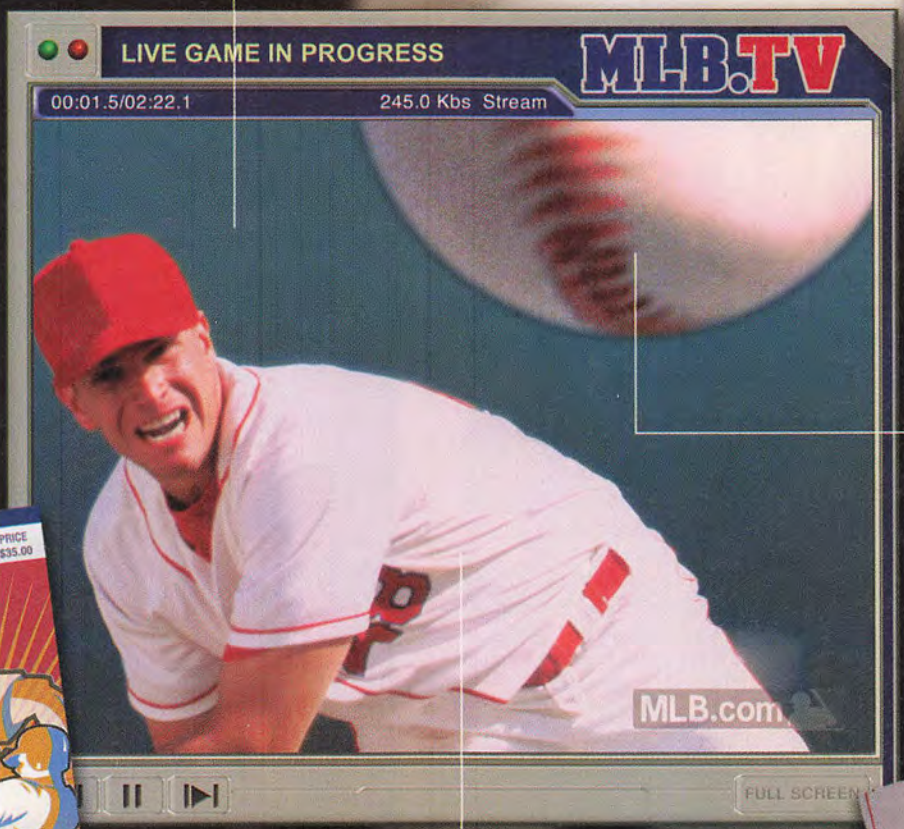

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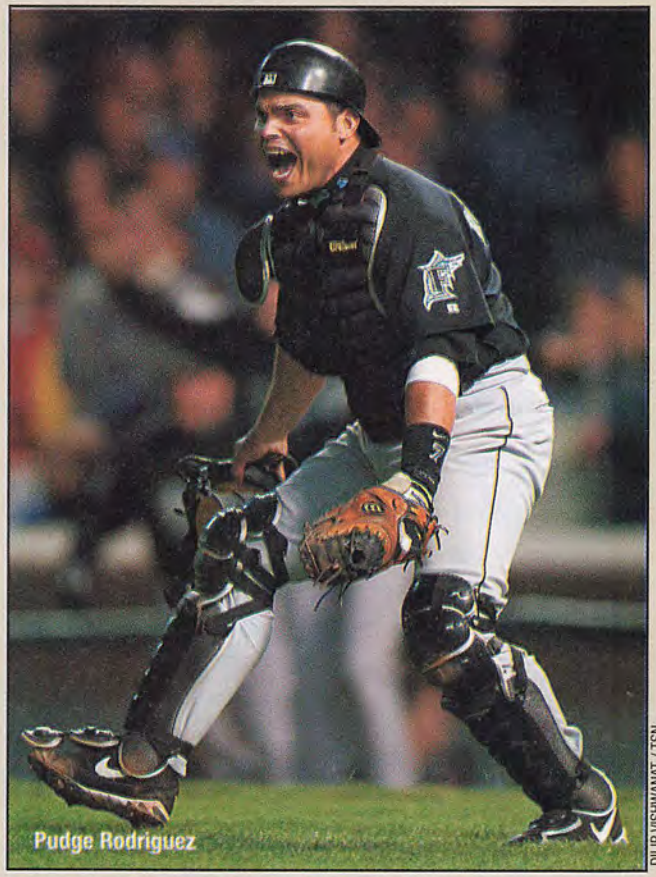
what is IN what is OUT

Derek Jeter

ROBERT SEALE / TSN


Pudge Rodriguez

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

One day, Pudge Rodriguez is the toast of Miami. The next, he's toast in Miami, burnt by contract demands. That's the way it is in baseball, when what's in can go out quicker than a Josh Beckett fastball.

JUST CHECK A FEW OF THESE TRENDS.

In: Red Sox vs. Yankees.
Out: Everybody else. At least in New York and New England.

In: Players changing teams. The Cardinals will be Reggie Sanders' seventh club in the last seven seasons. The Yankees will be outfielder Kenny Lofton's sixth since the start of the 2001 season. New Marlins closer Armando Benitez joins his fourth team in the last year. Arthur Rhodes will be the A's fourth closer in four years. Catcher Michael Barrett went from Montreal to Oakland to the Cubs in two days. Indeed, it may take some managers the first week of spring training just to introduce themselves to all of their new players.
Out: Players staying with one team their entire careers. Two seasons ago, there were only a dozen players who had played at least 10 years for the club they started and stayed with. Half of those since have moved on. The six who have stayed: Barry Larkin, 19th season with the Reds; Edgar Martinez, 18th with the Mariners; Craig Biggio, 16th with the Astros; Frank Thomas, 15th with the White Sox; Tim Salmon, 13th with the Angels; and Carlos Delgado, 12th with the Blue Jays.

In: Closers who can work more than one inning. None is better at doing so than new Red Sox closer Keith Foulke.
Out: Bullpen by committee. That's one reason why Foulke is with Boston.

In: A.L. East. It should be the best division in baseball. Even the Orioles and Devil Rays should be better.
Out: N.L. West. With so many questions facing the Giants, Diamondbacks and Dodgers, the Padres should be able to make this a four-team race.

In: Steroids testing.
Out: Size-18 necks.

In: Criticizing Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter. It happened last season and again during the World Series, and it will continue. Heck, even his own boss has taken a shot at him. If it's not his lack of range, it's his leadership skills, or his arm, or his shortage of power. Enough, already. In eight full seasons, Jeter has played in six World Series, he has a career average of .317, and, though he's not even 30, he's more than halfway to 3,000 hits. Criticize that.
Out: Universal love for Rangers shortstop Alex Rodriguez. No matter how smoothly he performs, on and off the field, A-Rod's list of critics is certain to grow after his offseason antics.

In: Fortysomething lefty pitchers—Randy Johnson, Jamie Moyer, Jesse Orosco, John Franco, Jeff Fassero.
Out: Forty-five-year-old left fielders who hit .208. See ya, Rickey Henderson.

In: Bench coaches as managers: Terry Francona and Dave Miley join a growing club that includes Bob Melvin, Ken Macha, Jim Tracy and Carlos Tosca.
Out: Former catchers as managers. Of the four hired or given permanent status since last season, only Miley was a catcher, and he never made it to the majors. Ozzie Guillen played shortstop, and Lee Mazilli and Francona were first basemen/outfielders.

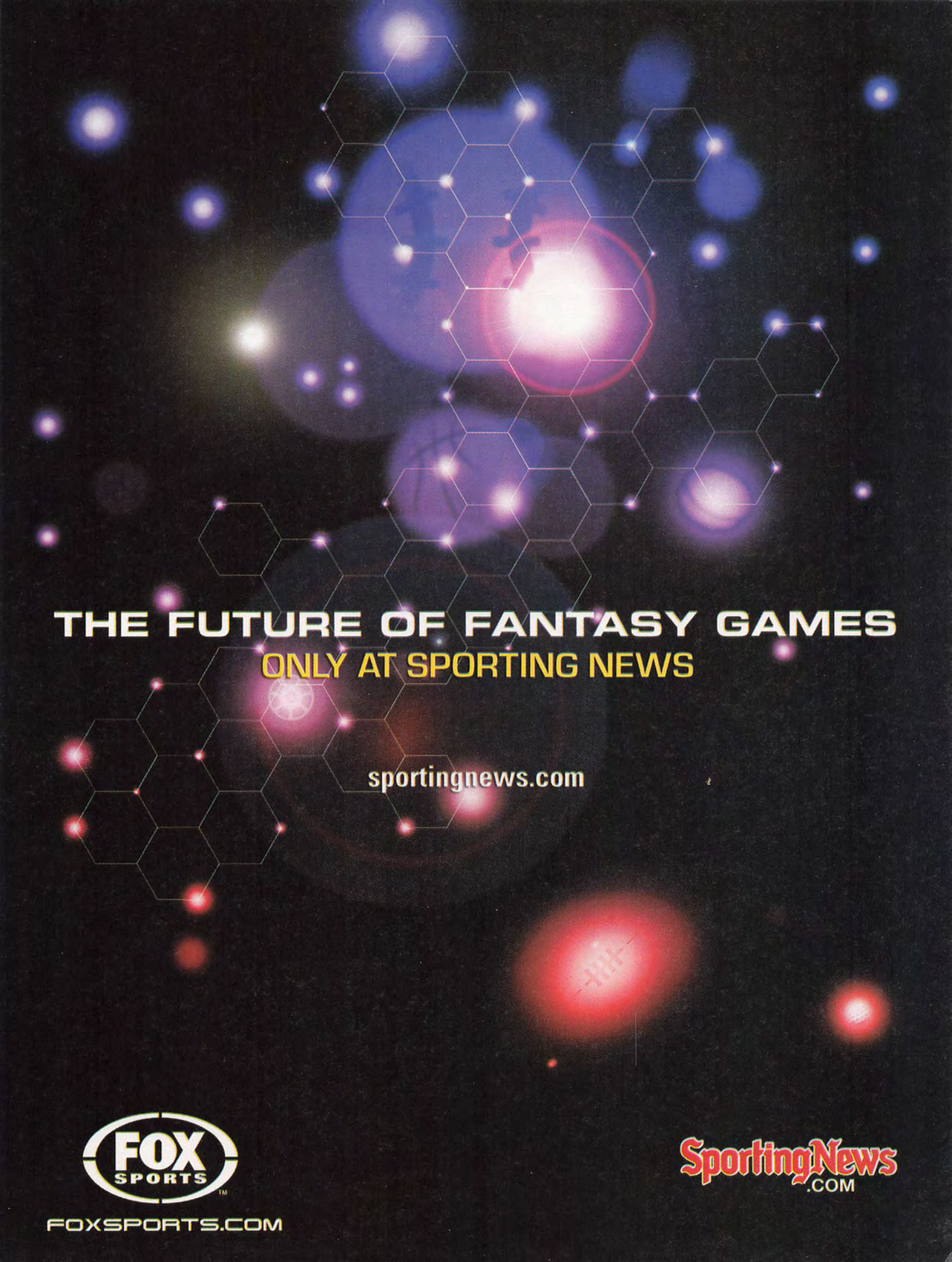
In: On-base percentage.
Out: Batting average.

In: ERA.
Out: Wins.

In: Arte Moreno, Angels owner. Lowered prices for the fans and increased payroll. What a concept.
Out: Rupert Murdoch, finally. It will take the Dodgers years to recover.

In: Good teams moving into new ballparks. The Phillies and, to a lesser extent, the Padres are primed to sparkle in their new homes.
Out: Long honeymoon periods for teams in new ballparks. You can lose the first year, and the fans will come. Lose the second year, and the new ballpark won't much matter. Just ask the Brewers, Pirates, Tigers and Reds.

—Stan McNeal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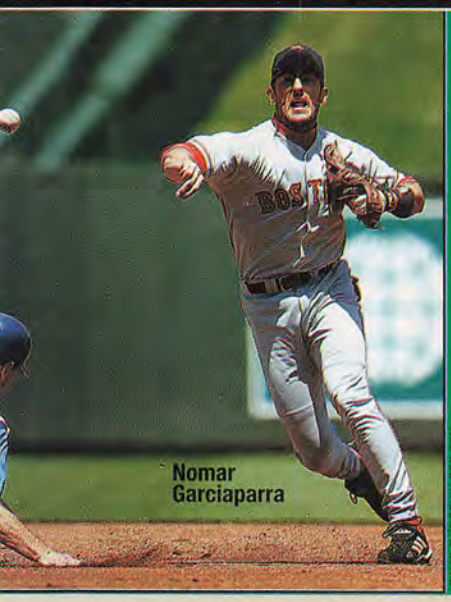

Nomar Garciaparra

DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

Next free-agent class could be deepest ever

It appears Nomar Garciaparra will hit the open market at the worst possible time for him. Next November, he could be a part of what might be the deepest free-agent class ever—and when it is expected that salaries will continue to be moving downward.

Garciaparra could be competing for dollars with some of the game's best hitters, including Blue Jays first baseman Carlos Delgado, A's third baseman Eric Chavez, Angels outfielder Garret Anderson, Diamondbacks first baseman Richie Sexson and White Sox outfielder Magglio Ordonez. Other potential top prizes: the Expos' double-play combination of Jose Vidro and Orlando Cabrera, Cubs third baseman Aramis Ramirez and Astros outfielder Richard Hidalgo.

Several big-name pitchers might be looking for work, too. Boston's Pedro Martinez, the Cubs' Kerry Wood, St. Louis' Matt Morris, Philadelphia's Billy Wagner, the Yankees' Mariano Rivera and Anaheim's Troy Percival top the list. And if you add Atlanta's Russ Ortiz, Montreal's Livan Hernandez, the White Sox's Esteban Loaiza, Los Angeles' Odalis Perez, Boston's Derek Lowe and Philadelphia's Eric Milton to the mix, it is clear that plenty of prime talent will be available at the winter meetings in Anaheim.

A team to keep a close eye on: the Red Sox. Along with Garciaparra, Martinez and Lowe, Boston also could face the possibility of having Jason Varitek, Bill Mueller, Trot Nixon, Alan Embree and Kevin Millar file for free agency after the World Series. *—Tom Gatto*

Changes at the top

Despite Jack McKeon's success last year with the Marlins, the majority of clubs making managerial changes are not averse to giving someone a first chance. Since the end of the 2002 season, eight of the 15 teams that changed managers have hired someone with no big-league managerial experience. Of the three new bosses this season, only the Red Sox's Terry Francona has managed before in the majors.

Ozzie Guillen, White Sox. Stoic Jerry Manuel has been replaced by the excitable Guillen, who coached third base for McKeon and the world-champion Marlins. Guillen plans to copy the Marlins' formula of emphasizing defense and speed in his new job, but the key to his season will be much like it was for Manuel last year: If slugger Frank Thomas is hitting and happy, Guillen's job will be much easier.

Lee Mazzilli, Orioles. Players who walked over Mike Hargrove last season are in for a change. Mazzilli was considered a tough, no-nonsense player and coach. In four seasons coaching with the Yankees, he also proved to be a good motivator and teacher. The Orioles want him to display those same characteristics as a rookie manager.

Francona, Red Sox. Managing in Boston will be considerably different than Francona's other managing job. For one thing, the Red Sox have much better talent than the Phillies had when Francona managed them to four consecutive losing seasons from 1997-2000. Of course, the expectations are far greater, too, as Grady Little learned when he was fired after guiding the Red Sox to within five outs of the World Series. But Francona has spent most of his life in the Northeast and knows as much about Red Sox history as any manager. *—Stan McNeal*

Interleague intrigue

Hope you didn't get too attached to last season's interleague matchups because they've changed again. This season the American League East faces the National League West, the A.L. Central faces the N.L. East, and the A.L. West faces the N.L. Central. And we will still be treated to some intriguing geographical matchups, such as Giants-A's, and some not-so-intriguing ones, such as Devil Rays-Marlins.

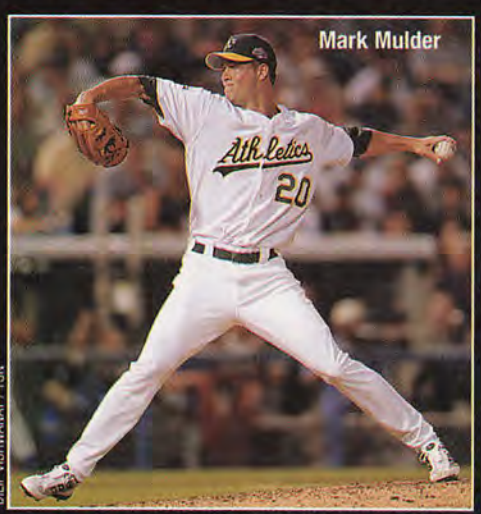
Some highlights:

Astros at Mariners, June 7-9. Two teams that usually start the season as contenders, then tail off when it matters. Neither franchise has reached the World Series, and these veteran-heavy clubs are seeing their windows of opportunity close.

Yankees at Diamondbacks, June 15-17. A rematch of the 2001 World Series, which stripped the Bronx Bombers of their postseason invincibility and made Series championship No. 27 as elusive as the third notch on David Wells' belt.

Red Sox at Rockies, June 15-17. Last season's record-breaking sluggers head to the capital of ridiculous offense.

Blue Jays at Giants, June 15-17. Two of the game's premier offensive forces, Carlos Delgado and Barry Bonds, hook up. New interleague rule proposal: no intentional walks.


Mark Mulder

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

A's at Cubs, June 18-20. Talk about your 1-2-3 punches: Barry Zito, Mark Mulder and Tim Hudson could face Mark Prior, Kerry Wood and Carlos Zambrano.

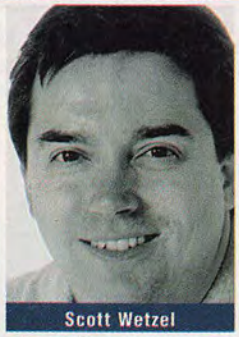
Yankees at Dodgers, June 18-20. The Kevin Brown-Jeff Weaver offseason swap adds some spice to an already great matchup of traditional powers. Bring back Zimmer and Lasorda as mascots!

Cardinals at Royals, June 25-27. Kansas City could be Missouri's better team this season, though St. Louis fans will find a way to blame Don Denkinger. *—Chris Bahr*

Murray in the Morning

James Brown

Peter Brown


Scott Wetzel

Tim Brando

"Papa" Joe Chevalier

Troy Aikman

Rick Ballou

Kevin Wheeler

Bob Berger

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Chet Coppock

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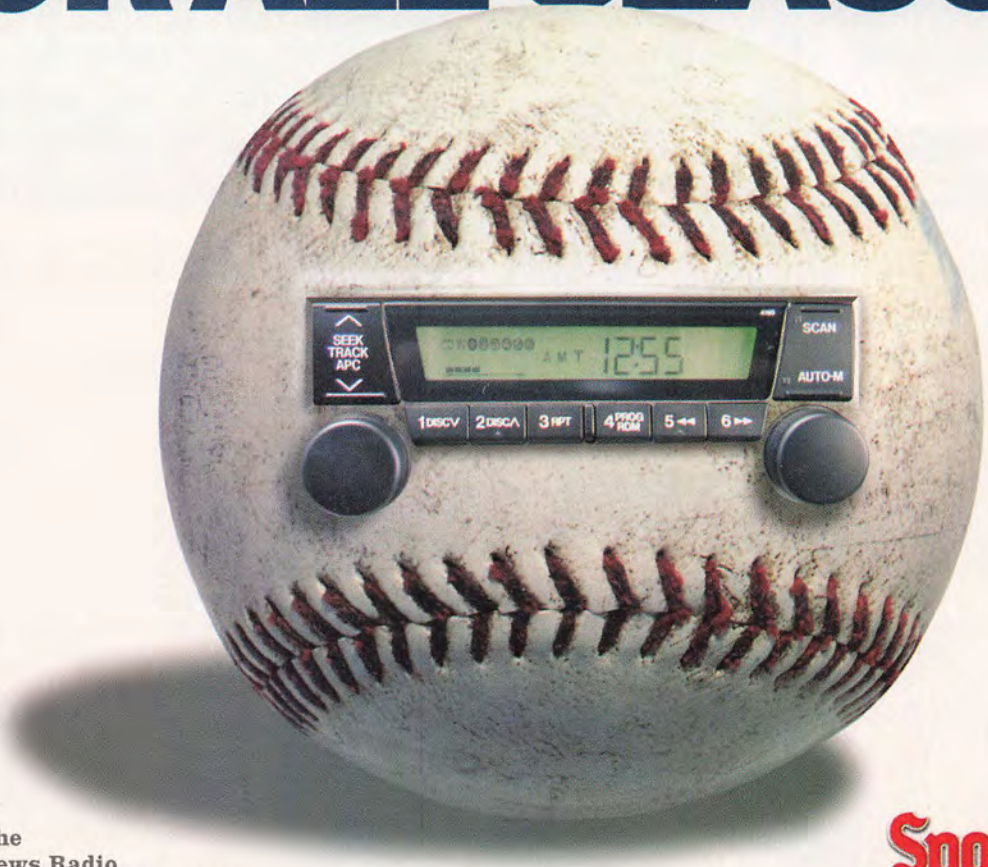

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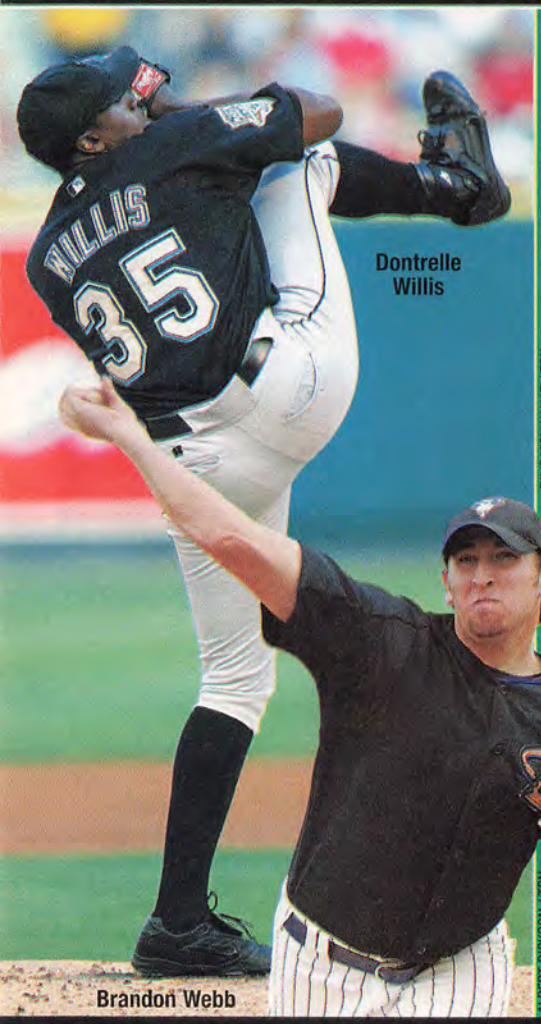


Dontrelle Willis

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Brandon Webb

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

2003 stats to ponder

4.50: Rockies lefthander Darren Oliver's ERA at Coors Field, where he was 7-3.

5.45: Oliver's ERA on the road, where he was 6-8.

4: Home runs hit by the Red Sox's David Ortiz in April, May and June.

27: Homers hit by Ortiz in July, August and September.

0: Wins by the Phillies' Kevin Millwood (0-4, 7.77 ERA in four starts) and the Mets' Tom Glavine (0-4, 10.35 ERA in four starts) against the Braves, their former team.

24, 80: Combined regular-season home runs and RBIs by Aramis Ramirez, Kenny Lofton and Randall Simon after they joined the Cubs from Pittsburgh.

The Diamondbacks' Brandon Webb vs. the Marlins' Dontrelle Willis:
Webb: 2.84 ERA, 10 wins, 172 strikeouts, 28 starts.
Willis: 3.30 ERA, 14 wins, 142 strikeouts, 27 starts.

6: N.L. pitchers in the top nine in run support who played for the Cardinals or Braves:
Woody Williams, St.L. (6.97 runs per nine innings, 1st).
Brett Tomko, St.L. (6.75, 2nd).
Russ Ortiz, Atl. (6.49, 4th).
Shane Reynolds, Atl. (6.45, 5th).
Horacio Ramirez, Atl. (5.97, 8th).
Mike Hampton, Atl. (5.59, 9th).

124: Home runs hit each by the Mets and Dodgers.

102: Homers hit by the Braves' starting outfield (Chipper Jones, Andruw Jones, Gary Sheffield).

162: Games started by the Mariners' Jamie Moyer, Joel Pineiro, Freddy Garcia, Gil Meche and Ryan Franklin. No one missed a start. The last club to use just five starters in a full season was the 1966 Dodgers.

1: Times the Tigers won more than three consecutive games (May 4-7, four games).

5: Teams from the A.L. West and N.L. West that ranked among the top six in the majors in ERA:
Dodgers (3.16, 1st).
A's (3.63, 2nd).
Giants (3.73, 3rd).
Mariners (3.76, 4th).
Diamondbacks (3.84, 6th).

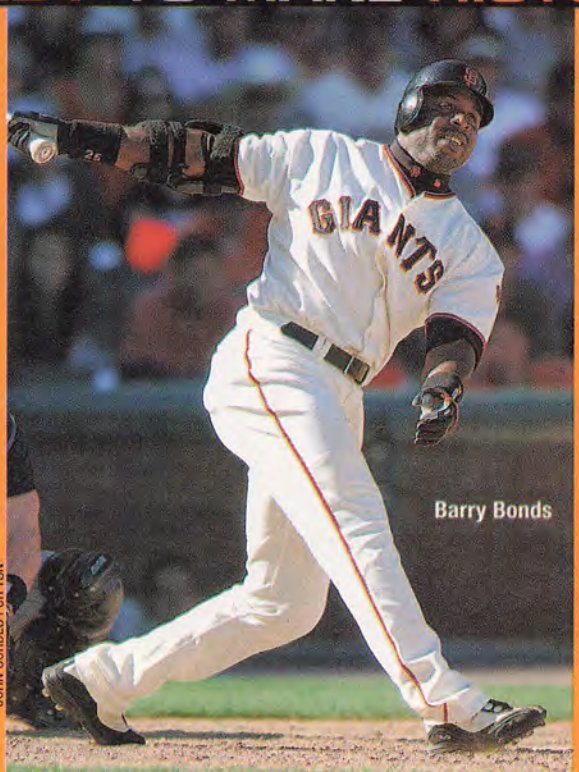
107: Saves by the Dodgers' Eric Gagne the past two seasons. He has converted 63 consecutive save opportunities dating to 2002. *—C.B.*

READY TO MAKE HISTORY

Life is full of milestones: graduating from college, buying your first car, turning 40. But some players are approaching milestones that are a little more special.

Barry Bonds. The Giants' slugger has two icons in his sights: godfather Willie Mays and Babe Ruth. Bonds (658 home runs) needs three to pass Mays for third on the all-time list, and Ruth (714) also is within reach if Bonds has a monster season. And if teams refuse to pitch to him, Bonds (2,070 walks) has a good chance of passing all-time leader Rickey Henderson (2,190).

Greg Maddux. He has four Cy Young Awards and a record 16 consecutive seasons with 15 or more wins. He likely will add to his list of accomplishments this season—he needs 11 victories to become the 22nd pitcher in baseball history to win 300 games.



Barry Bonds

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Trevor Hoffman. Hoffman (352 saves) could pass Dennis Eckersley (390) for third all-time, and he has an outside shot at joining Lee Smith and John Franco as the only players with 400 career saves. Hoffman missed most of 2003 after undergoing two shoulder operations, but the Padres hope he can recapture his old form in 2004.

Ken Griffey Jr. As long as Junior (481 home runs) doesn't re-injure his ankle … or his hamstring … or his shoulder, he should finally reach the 500 mark and add to his Hall of Fame credentials.

—Tricia Garner

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EXPERTS' PICKS FOR 2004

Ken Rosenthal
Senior writer

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1. Red Sox
*2. Yankees
3. Blue Jays
4. Orioles
5. Devil Rays

A.L. CENTRAL
1. Twins
2. Royals
3. White Sox
4. Indians
5. Tigers

A.L. WEST
1. Angels
2. A's
3. Mariners
4. Rangers

N.L. EAST
1. Phillies
2. Marlins
3. Braves
4. Mets
5. Expos

N.L. CENTRAL
1. Cubs
*2. Astros
3. Cardinals
4. Brewers
5. Reds
6. Pirates

N.L. WEST
1. Giants
2. Padres
3. Diamondbacks
4. Dodgers
5. Rockies

ALDS
Angels over Yankees
Red Sox over Twins

NLDS
Phillies over Astros
Cubs over Giants

ALCS
Red Sox over Angels

NLCS
Phillies over Cubs

WORLD SERIES
Red Sox over Phillies

A.L. MVP:
Alex Rodriguez, Rangers
N.L. MVP:
Barry Bonds, Giants

A.L. Cy Young:
Mike Mussina, Yankees
N.L. Cy Young:
Mark Prior, Cubs

A.L. Rookie:
Joe Mauer, Twins
N.L. Rookie:
Adam LaRoche, Braves

A.L. Manager:
Mike Scioscia, Angels
N.L. Manager:
Bruce Bochy, Padres

Stan McNeal
Managing editor

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3. Blue Jays
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5. Devil Rays

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Red Sox over A's

NLDS
Cubs over Marlins
Phillies over Diamondbacks

ALCS
Red Sox over Yankees

NLCS
Cubs over Phillies

WORLD SERIES
Red Sox over Cubs

A.L. MVP:
Alex Rodriguez, Rangers
N.L. MVP:
Barry Bonds, Giants

A.L. Cy Young:
Curt Schilling, Red Sox
N.L. Cy Young:
Mark Prior, Cubs

A.L. Rookie:
Bobby Crosby, A's
N.L. Rookie:
Kaz Matsui, Mets

A.L. Manager:
Terry Francona, Red Sox
N.L. Manager:
Dusty Baker, Cubs

Tom Gatto
Senior editor

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ALDS
Yankees over Royals
Red Sox over Mariners

NLDS
Phillies over Astros
Cubs over Giants

ALCS
Red Sox over Yankees

NLCS
Phillies over Cubs

WORLD SERIES
Phillies over Red Sox

A.L. MVP:
Alex Rodriguez, Rangers
N.L. MVP:
Jim Thome, Phillies

A.L. Cy Young:
Kevin Brown, Yankees
N.L. Cy Young:
Mark Prior, Cubs

A.L. Rookie:
Alexis Rios, Blue Jays
N.L. Rookie:
Kaz Matsui, Mets

A.L. Manager:
Bob Melvin, Mariners
N.L. Manager:
Felipe Alou, Giants

Chris Bahr
Associate editor

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5. Tigers

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4. Rangers

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Red Sox over A's

NLDS
Astros over Braves
Cubs over Diamondbacks

ALCS
Red Sox over Yankees

NLCS
Cubs over Astros

WORLD SERIES
Cubs over Red Sox

A.L. MVP:
Nomar Garciaparra, Red Sox
N.L. MVP:
Sammy Sosa, Cubs

A.L. Cy Young:
Mark Mulder, A's
N.L. Cy Young:
Jason Schmidt, Giants

A.L. Rookie:
Joe Mauer, Twins
N.L. Rookie:
Kaz Matsui, Mets

A.L. Manager:
Terry Francona, Red Sox
N.L. Manager:
Jimy Williams, Astros

Tricia Garner
Associate editor

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Yankees over A's

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NLCS
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Red Sox over Cubs

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A.L. Manager:
Terry Francona, Red Sox
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Felipe Alou, Giants

* Wild card

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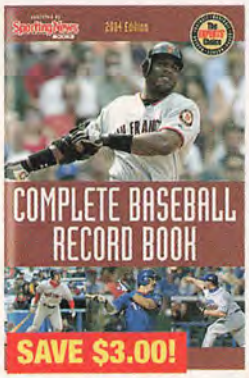

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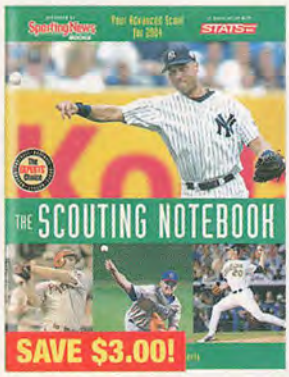

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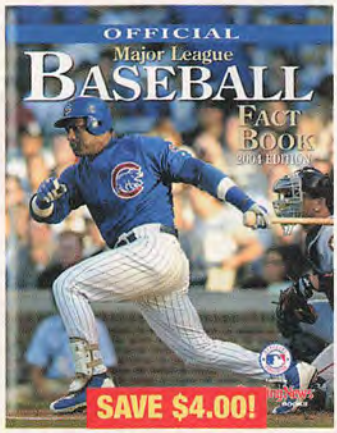

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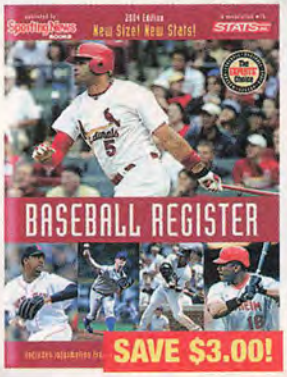

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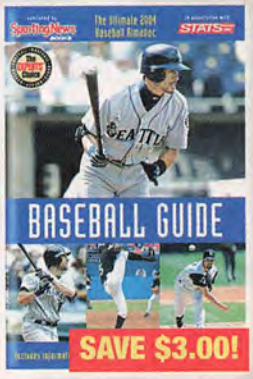

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DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

1. Which team has the longest playoff drought?
A. Tigers
B. Blue Jays
C. Expos
D. Royals

2. The Yankees lead all major league teams with 26 World Series championships. Which club leads the National League?
A. Dodgers
B. Mets
C. Reds
D. Cardinals

3. Which player has the highest career batting average?
A. Nomar Garciaparra
B. Derek Jeter
C. Mike Piazza
D. Alex Rodriguez

4. Who is the active leader in career grand slams?
A. Sammy Sosa
B. Manny Ramirez
C. Barry Bonds
D. Ken Griffey Jr.

5. Which franchise has won the most Rookie of the Year awards?
A. Yankees
B. Dodgers
C. Orioles
D. Cardinals

6. Which of the following pitchers has thrown more than 100 complete games?
A. Randy Johnson
B. Kevin Brown
C. Curt Schilling
D. Greg Maddux

7. Who played in the most games last season?
A. Hideki Matsui, Yankees
B. Juan Pierre, Marlins
C. Miguel Tejada, A's
D. Richie Sexson, Brewers

8. Who played in every inning of every game last season?
A. Hideki Matsui, Yankees
B. Juan Pierre, Marlins
C. Miguel Tejada, A's
D. Richie Sexson, Brewers

9. If Rickey Henderson does not play this season, who will be the active leader in career stolen bases?
A. Kenny Lofton
B. Barry Bonds
C. Roberto Alomar
D. Marquis Grissom

10. Name the four teams that have won every World Series in which they have played.

11. Among active managers, who has won the most All-Star Games?
A. Bobby Cox
B. Joe Torre
C. Tony La Russa
D. Lou Piniella

12. Which of the following players has struck out more than 600 times since 2000?
A. Pat Burrell
B. Alex Rodriguez
C. Jeromy Burnitz
D. Mike Cameron

13. Which of these players did not play in the College World Series?
A. Barry Bonds
B. Mike Mussina
C. Kenny Lofton
D. Nomar Garciaparra

14. Which position has accounted for the most World Series MVP winners?
A. Pitcher
B. Outfield
C. First base
D. Third base

15. How many different players have hit at least 50 home runs in a season since 2000?
A. 3
B. 4
C. 5
D. 6

16. Since 2000, how many different players have hit at least 40 home runs in a season?
A. 20
B. 22
C. 24
D. 26

17. Who leads the majors in games started since 2000?
A. Greg Maddux
B. Tom Glavine
C. Tim Hudson
D. Livan Hernandez

18. Which pitcher has NOT appeared in at least 300 games since 2000?
A. Paul Quantrill
B. Steve Kline
C. Scott Sauerbeck
D. Dave Weathers

Answers:

1. C	4. B
2. D	5. B
3. A	6. D

7. A (Matsui played in 163 games because a Yankees game was rained out and made up from the start. Six players, including the other three, played in all of their team's games in 2003.)

8. D

9. A; Lofton 538, Bonds 500, Alomar 474, Grissom 425.

10. Angels (1), Blue Jays (2), Diamondbacks (1), Marlins (2).

11. B

12. D; Cameron has 601, Burrell 596, Burnitz 518 and Rodriguez 500. Only four players have more strikeouts than Cameron since 2000: Jim Thome (677), Jose Hernandez (675), Richie Sexson (624) and Sammy Sosa (608).

13. C

14. A

15. C; Barry Bonds (73 in 2001), Luis Gonzalez (57 in '01), Alex Rodriguez (57 in '02, 52 in '01), Sammy Sosa (64 in '01, 50 in '00) and Jim Thome (52 in '02).

16. D; Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa, Luis Gonzalez, Jim Thome, Shawn Green, Alex Rodriguez, Todd Helton, Jeff Bagwell, Troy Glaus, Rafael Palmeiro, Richie Sexson, Vladimir Guerrero, Richard Hidalgo, Javy Lopez, Albert Pujols, Gary Sheffield, Frank Thomas, Lance Berkman, Carlos Delgado, Jim Edmonds, Tony Batista, Jason Giambi, David Justice, Phil Nevin, Manny Ramirez and Ken Griffey Jr.

17. A; Maddux has 139, Glavine 138, Hudson 135 and Hernandez 133.

18. D; Weathers has appeared in 297, Sauerbeck 302, Kline 316, Quantrill 323.

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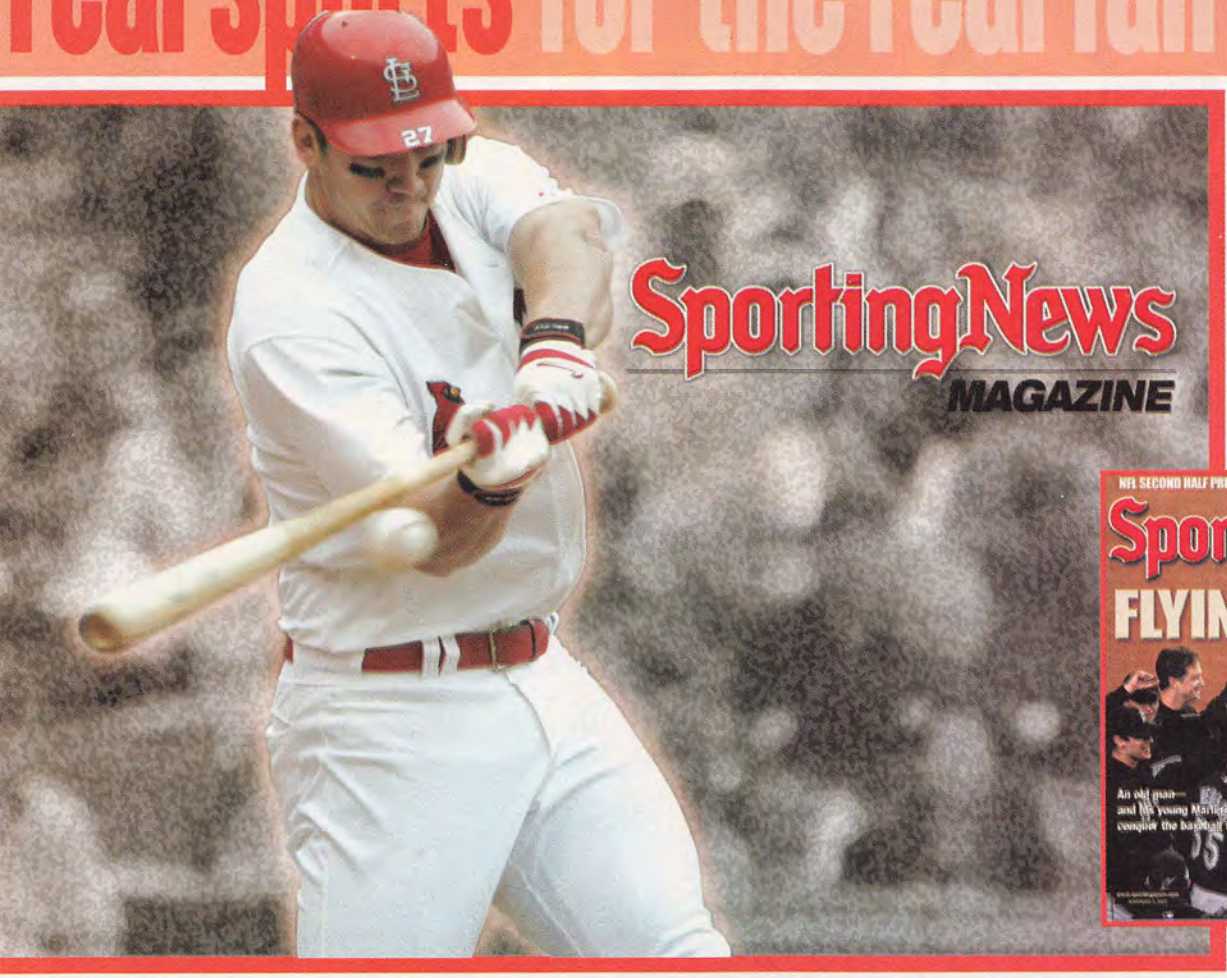

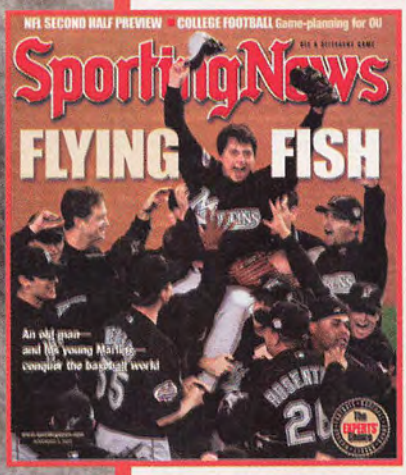

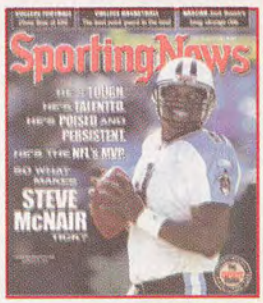

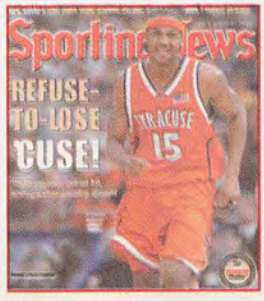

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SCOUTING THE A.L.

5 to watch

Team: Angels. Hard-throwing righthanders Bartolo Colon and Kelvim Escobar should provide a needed boost to the rotation. If such veterans as closer Troy Percival, center fielder Darin Erstad and designated hitter Tim Salmon hold up, the Rally Monkey should enjoy a fun summer at Angel Stadium.

Player: Gary Sheffield, Yankees. After two exceptional regular seasons with the Braves, Sheffield's success in New York will be measured more for what he does in October than the first six months of the season. If nothing else, his bat should take some of the pressure off Jason Giambi and Bernie Williams, both of whom welcome the relief.

Pitcher: Arthur Rhodes, A's. Oakland's fourth closer in four seasons is different than his predecessors: He never has been a full-time closer. The lefthander brings plenty of heat to the mound, but how he handles the nightly grind of closing will be key to the A's chances of reaching the postseason for a fifth consecutive season.

Manager: Terry Francona, Red Sox. All Larry Lucchino and Co. want from their manager is for him to motivate his players, schmooze with the public, handle the media, believe in the power of numbers and know when to take Pedro Martinez out of the game. Piece of cake, right, Mr. Francona?

Statistic: A .326 average was good enough for the Red Sox's Bill Mueller to win the batting title last year. It was the lowest average for an A.L. batting champ since 1972, when Rod Carew hit .318. Who says offense has taken over the game?

Ken Rosenthal's predictions

EAST	CENTRAL	WEST	DIVISION SERIES	ALCS	WORLD SERIES
1. Red Sox	1. Twins	1. Angels	Angels over Yankees	Red Sox over Angels	Red Sox over Phillies
2. Yankees	2. Royals	2. A's	Red Sox over Twins		
3. Blue Jays	3. White Sox	3. Mariners			
4. Orioles	4. Indians	4. Rangers			
5. Devil Rays	5. Tigers				

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

ANAHEIM ANGELS

PROJECTED A.L. WEST FINISH: **1ST**

By Doug Miller/MLB.com

The highlight of the 2003 season happened on the first day, when the team collected its World Series rings—keepsakes to celebrate, and close the book on, Anaheim's exhilarating run to its first championship the season before. Then, ravaged by injuries and inconsistent pitching, the Angels fell back to earth with a mighty thud, finishing 77-85, a well-beaten third in the American League West.

Enter new owner Arte Moreno, who has bold plans and has not wasted time providing the capital to make improvements. The new-look Angels of 2004 will be beefed up—in a rotation that now features big, hard-throwing horses Bartolo Colon and Kelvim Escobar, and in an outfield that will be cornered by hard-hitting run producers Vladimir Guerrero and Jose Guillen.

TSNUMBER

230

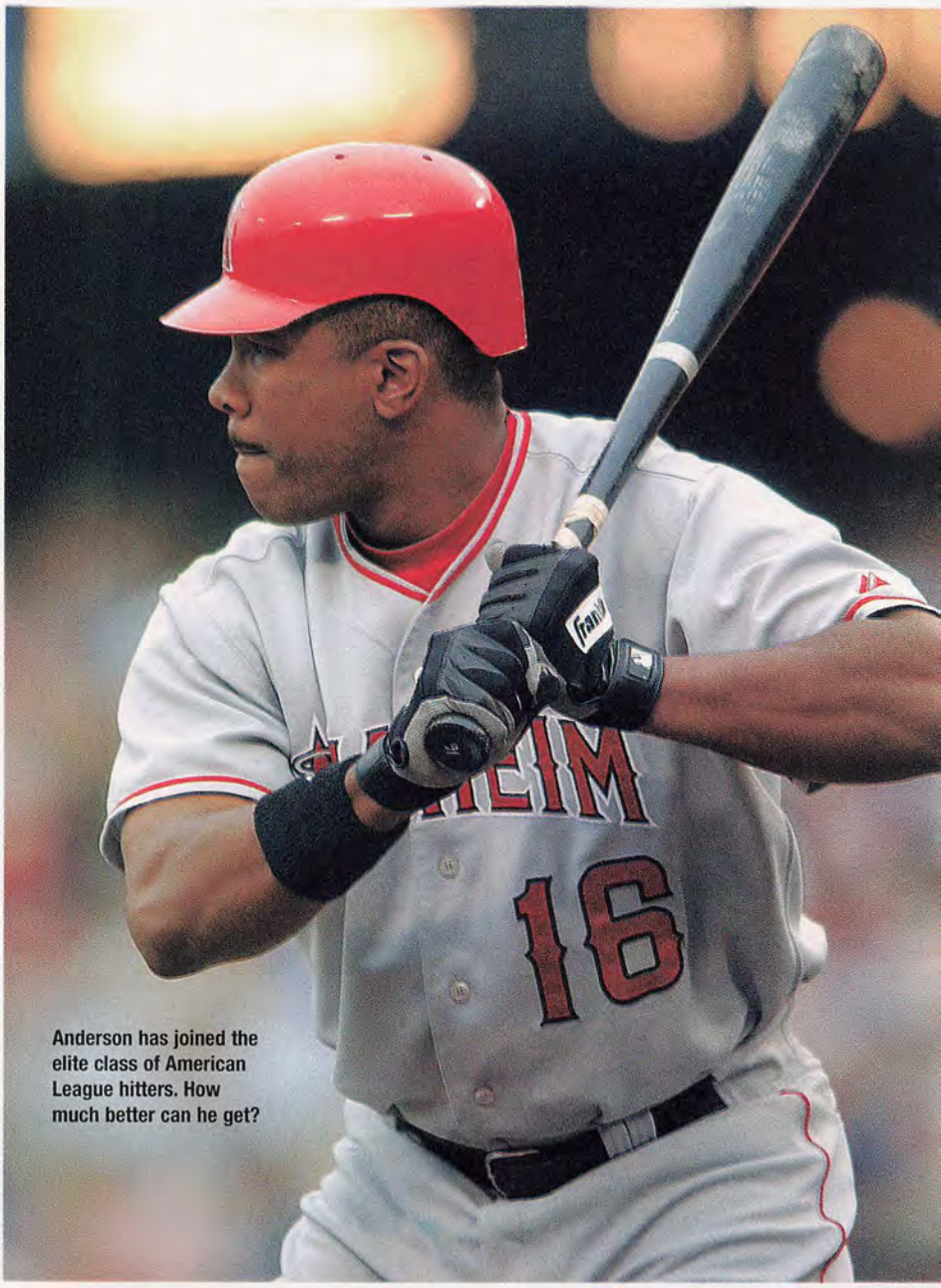
Games missed in 2003 by starters Darin Erstad (95), Troy Glaus (71), David Eckstein (42) and Bengie Molina (22) because of injuries.

Now, manager Mike Scioscia needs only to surround his free-agent additions with a healthy returning cast. World Series stars Troy Glaus, Brad Fullmer, Darin Erstad, Bengie Molina, David Eckstein and Adam Kennedy all spent significant time on the disabled list last season, turning the Angels' lineup into a Who's Who of Class AAA players by late July.

All except the released Fullmer will be ready for spring training, as will the formidable bullpen that continued to dominate A.L. hitters. With one of the most durable and deep staffs in the majors now supported by one of the game's best offensive outfields, Scioscia only can hope his core group stays out of the trainer's room for what could become a 162-game championship haul.

MANAGER Scioscia won well-deserved acclaim for his no-panic approach in 2002 when everything went his way. The Angels stayed relatively healthy, the bullpen dominated, the offense caught fire at the right time and Anaheim got its long-awaited first world title. Despite a franchise-worst 6-14 start that year, Scioscia kept faith in his team and was rewarded with the ultimate prize.

In 2003, he never got a chance to even consider what it would be like to challenge for anything other than a prideful end to a disastrous season. Still, Scioscia did an outstanding job of keeping the team together.



Anderson has joined the elite class of American League hitters. How much better can he get?

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Despite the injuries and rush of youth on the roster, the team played hard to the end and managed to avoid last place in one of baseball's toughest divisions.

Scioscia will continue to employ the same approach in 2004 and has to be happy that pitching coach Bud Black and bench coach Joe Maddon will be back by his side. Both were contenders for the Red Sox managerial job that went to Terry Francona. **GRADE: A**

ROTATION The rotation was a big disappointment, with a collective ERA hovering around 5.00 all year. Two signings and $69.75 million of Moreno's money later, it is shaping up to be a huge plus, with power arms Colon and Escobar in the mix and the kind of depth any team would envy.

Colon, 30, is the ace the team has been coveting for years. If he stays healthy—and there is no reason to think he won't, since he

never has had a serious arm injury in his seven-year career—he is a virtual lock for 200 innings and should anchor the staff by pitching deep into games and resting the bullpen. His 98-mph fastball does not hurt, either.

Jarrod Washburn, the team's only lefthanded starter, was hurt all last season after spraining his shoulder in a freak fall during a spring training drill. His numbers fell drastically from his career year of '02, when he won 18 games, but the Angels believe he improved as a pitcher by not relying on fastballs as much as he had in the past. Being the No. 2 man behind Colon should take a lot of the pressure off.

Escobar brings more high-90s heat to the picture and could be one of the A.L.'s up-and-coming starters. In Toronto last season, Escobar was shuttled back and forth to the bullpen until moving into the rotation full-time at midseason and clicking as the No. 2 man behind A.L. Cy Young winner Roy Halladay. Escobar had great numbers on grass and away from SkyDome, so he should love Angel Stadium. He also will not have to look over his shoulder, wondering when he will be put back in the bullpen.

Ramon Ortiz won a career-high 16 games, but the Angels were not happy with his performance. His ERA skyrocketed, his strikeouts plummeted and the only reason he won was because he enjoyed more run support than any starter. To be fair, the easy-to-rattle Ortiz went through a lot of personal anguish last year because of his father's chronic illness and subsequent death. He should be more focused in 2004.

This season will be Aaron Sele's final chance to prove he was worth the $24 million, three-year deal he signed before the 2002 season. Sele underwent shoulder surgery after that year, and his 2003 season was a roller-coaster ride that provided more dizziness than cheap thrills. His command needs to improve for him to have an impact.

After weighing in as the team's World Series Game 7 hero, John Lackey looked lost for the first two months while trying to be too fine in the strike zone. He corrected many of his mistakes, only to become Anaheim's hard-luck pitcher for most of the year. The good news is that the 25-year-old finished the season strong, shutting out Seattle in his final game. Anaheim still has big plans for the tall Texan, whose changeup has improved dramatically.

Long reliever Scot Shields and Class AAA starter Kevin Gregg both impressed in spot starts last year. Shields became a rotation regular late in the season and served notice he can be called upon at any time to step in for a struggling starter. **GRADE: A-**

BULLPEN This unit was by far the best thing about the 2003 Angels, even though rock-solid closer Troy Percival had an atypical year because of degenerative changes in his hip that forced him to lower his high leg kick. Percival still reached 97 mph on his fastball and claimed he had more control with his devastating curve.

Brendan Donnelly surprised everyone but himself by taking the setup role from Francisco Rodriguez early in the year and not letting go. Donnelly rode his power slider and oddball delivery to a 1.58 ERA, despite pitching with bone chips in his elbow over the final two months.

Rodriguez quietly had a respectable rookie season, ironing out early season command problems to strike out 95 batters in 86 innings. His mid- to high-90s fastball and wicked slider still are considered among the top two-pitch combinations in the game.

A number of proven performers fill out the bullpen. Ben Weber continued his excellent work in the middle to late innings, posting a sub-3.00 ERA for the second straight year. September call-up Derrick Turnbow pitched 11 scoreless innings and featured a 97-mph heater. Shields can bounce back from outings quicker than most and baffles hitters with 93-mph heat and movement on every pitch. **GRADE: A**

CATCHING When Bengie Molina broke his wrist in a home-plate collision on Labor Day, he already had matched his career-best statistics (.281 average, 14 home runs, 71 RBIs) and was playing the stellar defense that would net him his second straight Gold Glove. Reports are that he is progressing better than expected from the injury, and he will be eager to prove he is still the catcher the Angels remember.

Molina's brother, Jose, has a lot to prove as the backup. He was a major disappointment offensively last year and is out of options, so the Angels could lose him to waivers if he does not make the roster out of spring training. **GRADE: B+**

INFIELD Look for the middle defense to improve dramatically with the return of Kennedy and Eckstein from injuries.

Kennedy has become one of the best all-around second basemen in the A.L., with a

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Another MVP-type season from OF **Garret Anderson**, who keeps proving he is one of the best hitters in baseball. He continues to get better as he learns more about the pitchers in the American League.
2. A big rebound for RHP **John Lackey**. He struggled in his first full season (10-16, 4.63 ERA), but finished strong. Lackey is confident with his breaking ball and much better with his changeup.
3. Overall improvement by the starting pitchers. Injuries and inconsistency plagued the group last season. The acquisition of RHPs **Bartolo Colon** and **Kelvim Escobar** should help restore order.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

The main problem last year besides the injuries was the starting pitching was just not as consistent as it was the year before. They expect Ramon Ortiz to rebound. ... Overall, what they're trying to do with the club I doubt will change so close to winning a World Series and with the same manager, pitching coach, general manager and basic nucleus. ... You had four guys—(Troy) Glaus, (Darin) Erstad, (Bengie) Molina and (David) Eckstein—really banged up last year, and that's quite a bit of the nucleus. So you have to figure they'll be fine if they can get healthy. ... (Jeff) DaVanon had kind of a breakout year in a limited amount of at-bats. He was quite a find for them. ... Those bullpen guys continue to be quite a complement to (Troy) Percival as a closer. (Brendan) Donnelly is older, but he's still only a few years into the big leagues, and Frankie Rodriguez, he has a special arm and he rises to the occasion. Those are interesting guys.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. David Eckstein, SS	**6**
Needs to increase on-base percentage.	
2. Darin Erstad, 1B	**5**
Can the offensive engine adjust to first base?	
3. Garret Anderson, CF	**7**
As smooth, stoic and dependable as they come.	
4. Vladimir Guerrero, RF	**7**
An all-world addition to the middle of the lineup.	
5. Troy Glaus, 3B	**6**
Can he achieve another 40-homer season?	
6. Tim Salmon, DH	**5**
Bat speed still there at 36; outfield legs aren't.	
7. Jose Guillen, LF	**4**
Free swinger must learn situational offense.	
8. Bengie Molina, C	**5**
Eager to come back from wrist injury.	
9. Adam Kennedy, 2B	**5**
Among the most improved players in baseball.	
Starters	
1. Bartolo Colon, RH	**7**
Is a horse, but is he worth all that money?	
2. Jarrod Washburn, LH	**6**
Slipped big-time last year; needs to be healthy.	
3. Kelvim Escobar, RH	**5**
Could blossom as full-time starter.	
4. Ramon Ortiz, RH	**5**
Must toughen up mentally on the mound.	
5. Aaron Sele, RH	**5**
Must produce early or could be sent packing.	
Closer	
Troy Percival, RH	**6**
Hip problem will remain a concern.	
Total	**84**

much-improved glove and a bat that came alive in the second half. He suffered a broken bone in his hand when hit by a pitch in the second-to-last game of the season, but he will be ready for spring training.

Eckstein, who missed 42 games with a leg injury, also is expected to be fine by spring. That's good, because the shortstop is a pesky leadoff man who can make contact, work pitchers, get hit by pitches, walk and run the bases better than any Angel. His size and lack of arm strength are limiting, but he makes the routine plays.

The Angels not only need third baseman Glaus to be healthy, they need him to be the major run producer he was from 2000-02. Glaus tore his rotator cuff last year, missing 71 games. He still needs to shorten his swing to avoid the cold stretches that have kept his average near .250. But, when locked in, he is a devastating power hitter.

With the addition of Guillen and Guerrero and departure of Scott Spiezio, Erstad will relocate to first base. Erstad, an outstanding center fielder and the offensive engine, is not thrilled by the move. But playing first could ease the strain on his hamstrings, which bothered him through much of last season.

Tim Salmon, formerly the everyday right fielder, still has pop in his bat and will spend most of his time at DH. Utilitymen Chone Figgins and Alfredo Amezaga are speedy alternatives. **GRADE: C+**

OUTFIELD The season should open with Guillen in left field, Guerrero in right and Garret Anderson moving from his left field spot to center. Few major league outfields can match this one for offensive firepower.

The team may have scored a coup by signing Guillen, who batted .311 with 31* homers and 86 RBIs in a breakthrough 2003 season for the Reds and A's. He also has one of the strongest arms in the game.

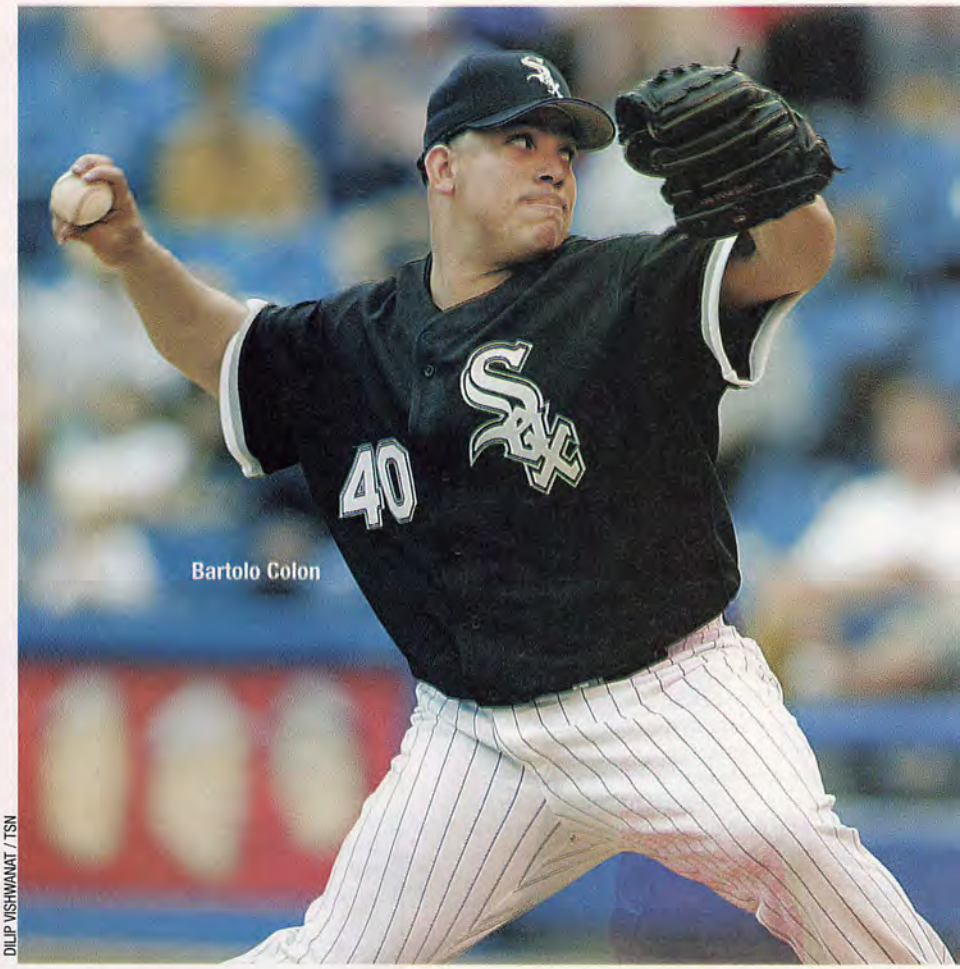
Guerrero is an all-world talent who makes up for what he lacks in plate discipline with athleticism. He's a potential 40-40 man who fell one home run short of that goal with the Expos in 2002.

Anderson is the Angels' best player—and he's only getting better. His remarkable consistency, both offensively and defensively, resulted in the best statistical season of his career and such highlights as the All-Star Game MVP award and his victory in the home run derby competition. Anderson will have to adjust to a new position, but he has outstanding speed, and he also led the 2003 Angels with 14 assists.

Jeff DaVanon, a switch hitter, opened some eyes with a streaky but memorable 2003, his first injury-free big-league season. DaVanon, who hit two home runs in three consecutive June games, will need to stay relaxed and not lapse back into his free-swinging ways while coming off the bench.

Figgins was given a chance to show his skills in center field for the injured Erstad and did an admirable job. His speed translated well to the position and he was a catalyst in the leadoff spot when Eckstein was hurt. **GRADE: B+**

Doug Miller covers the Angels for MLB.com.



Bartolo Colon

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Angels Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.268	.267
Runs	736	788
Hits	1473	1495
Home runs	150	179
Stolen bases	129	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.28	4.52
Complete games	5	8
Saves	39	38
Walks	486	508
Strikeouts	980	981
Errors	105	105

WINS AND LOSSES

77-85 (3rd in A.L. West), 45-37 at home, 32-48 on road, 15-30 vs. A.L. East, 26-15 vs. A.L. Central, 25-33 vs. A.L. West, 11-7 vs. N.L., 28-26 vs. LH starters, 49-59 vs. RH starters, 70-77 on grass, 7-8 on turf, 21-24 in daytime, 56-61 at night, 16-20 in one-run games, 2-4 in extra-inning games, 1-0-0 in doubleheaders.
Mike Scioscia's record: 333-315, 4 seasons with Angels.
Postseason: 11-5, 1 season with Angels; 1 World Series championship (2002).
Team record past five years: 403-407 (.498, ranks 15th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Bartolo Colon (FA/White Sox), RHP Kelvim Escobar (FA/Blue Jays), OF Vladimir Guerrero (FA/Expos), OF Jose Guillen (FA/Athletics).
Losses: IF Brad Fullmer (FA/Rangers), IF Benji Gil (FA/Rockies), OF Eric Owens (FA), IF Scott Spiezio (FA/Mariners), IF/C Shawn Wooten (FA/Phillies).

MEDIA

Radio: ESPN-AM (710)
Cable TV: Fox Sports West
Website: angels.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Salt Lake (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Arkansas (Texas)
Class A: Cedar Rapids (Midwest), Rancho Cucamonga (California)
Rookie: Provo (Pioneer), Mesa Angels (Arizona)

Angel Stadium of Anaheim

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 45,050
Ticket information: 714-634-2000

Spring training: Tempe Diablo Stadium (Tempe, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 714-940-2000

Angels Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 SEA	7 SEA	8 SEA	9 TEX	10 TEX
11 TEX	12 TEX	13 SEA	14 SEA	15 SEA	16 OAK	17 OAK
18 OAK	19	20 TEX	21 TEX	22 TEX	23 OAK	24 OAK
25 OAK	26	27 DET	28 DET	29 DET	30 MIN	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 MIN
2 MIN	3 DET	4 DET	5 DET	6 TB	7 TB	8 TB
9 TB	10	11 NYY	12 NYY	13 NYY	14 BAL	15 BAL
16 BAL	17	18 NYY	19 NYY	20 NYY	21 BAL	22 BAL
23 BAL	24 TOR	25	26 TOR	27 TOR	28 CHW	29 CHW
30 CHW	31					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 BOS	2 BOS	3 CLE	4 CLE	5 CLE
6 CLE	7	8 MIL	9 MIL	10 MIL	11 CHC	12 CHC
13 CHC	14	15 PIT	16 PIT	17 PIT	18 HOU	19 HOU
20 HOU	21 OAK	22 OAK	23 OAK	24 OAK	25 LA	26 LA
27 LA	28	29 OAK	30 OAK			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 OAK	2 LA	3 LA
4 LA	5	6 CHW	7 CHW	8 CHW	9 TOR	10 TOR
11 TOR	12	13 All-Star	14	15 BOS	16 BOS	17 BOS
18 BOS	19 CLE	20 CLE	21 TEX	22 TEX	23 SEA	24 SEA
25 SEA	26 TEX	27 TEX	28 TEX	29 SEA	30 SEA	31 SEA

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 SEA	2	3 MIN	4 MIN	5 MIN	6 KC	7 KC
8 KC	9 KC	10 BAL	11 BAL	12 BAL	13 DET	14 DET
15 DET	16	17 TB	18 TB	19 TB	20 NYY	21 NYY
22 NYY	23 KC	24 KC	25 KC	26	27 MIN	28 MIN
29 MIN	30	31 BOS				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 BOS	2 BOS	3 CLE	4 CLE
5 CLE	6	7 TOR	8 TOR	9 TOR	10 CHW	11 CHW
12 CHW	13 SEA	14 SEA	15 SEA	16 SEA	17 TEX	18 TEX
19 TEX	20 SEA	21 SEA	22 SEA	23	24 OAK	25 OAK
26 OAK	27 TEX	28 TEX	29 TEX	30 TEX		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 OAK	2 OAK
3 OAK	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager, Mike Scioscia (14). Coaches: Bud Black (24), Alfredo Griffin (4), Mickey Hatcher (7), Joe Maddon (70), Ron Roenicke (12), Steve Soliz (61).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	Andrade, Steve	R/R	6-1/220	26	Arkansas	5-1	2.65	36/0	7	51.0	26	16	15	19	74
					R. Cucamonga	0-0	0.00	3/0	1	3.0	0	0	0	3	7
	Bittner, Tim	L/L	6-2/265	23	Kannapolis	4-4	3.40	10/10	0	50.1	45	24	19	26	45
					Winston-Salem	3-3	3.60	17/0	1	30.0	18	13	12	12	23
					R. Cucamonga	5-0	0.28	6/6	0	32.2	18	5	1	14	28
51	Bootcheck, Chris	R/R	6-5/200	25	Salt Lake	8-9	4.25	28/26	0	171.1	194	103	81	43	82
					Anaheim	0-1	9.58	4/1	0	10.1	16	13	11	6	7
	Colon, Bartolo	R/R	5-11/240	30	Chicago	15-13	3.87	34/34	0	242.0	223	107	104	67	173
53	Donnelly, Brendan	R/R	6-3/240	32	Anaheim	2-2	1.58	63/0	3	74.0	55	14	13	24	79
	Escobar, Kelvim	R/R	6-1/210	27	Toronto	13-9	4.29	41/26	4	180.1	189	94	86	78	159
	Fischer, Rich	R/R	6-3/180	23	Arkansas	5-11	4.61	26/26	0	154.1	159	91	79	43	123
	Green, Steve	R/R	6-2/200	26	Mesa	1-1	1.29	2/2	0	7.0	4	2	1	2	7
					Salt Lake	9-5	4.66	21/21	0	110.0	120	63	57	47	70
	Gregg, Kevin	R/R	6-6/220	25	Arkansas	4-3	3.53	15/11	0	66.1	60	29	26	19	60
					Salt Lake	7-4	4.03	15/15	0	91.2	90	47	41	18	75
					Anaheim	2-0	3.28	5/3	0	24.2	18	9	9	8	14
	Jenks, Bobby	R/R	6-3/270	23	Mesa	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	4.0	2	0	0	0	5
					Arkansas	7-2	2.17	16/16	0	83.0	56	23	20	51	103
58	Jones, Greg	R/R	6-2/195	27	Salt Lake	2-3	4.40	33/0	4	47.0	36	24	23	9	56
					Anaheim	0-0	4.88	18/0	0	27.2	29	15	15	14	28
41	Lackey, John	R/R	6-6/235	25	Anaheim	10-16	4.63	33/33	0	204.0	223	117	105	66	151
45	Ortiz, Ramon	R/R	6-0/175	31	Anaheim	16-13	5.20	32/32	0	180.0	209	121	104	63	94
40	Percival, Troy	R/R	6-3/235	34	Anaheim	0-5	3.47	52/0	33	49.1	33	22	19	23	48
57	Rodriguez, Fran.	R/R	6-0/185	22	Anaheim	8-3	3.03	59/0	2	86.0	50	30	29	35	95
34	Sele, Aaron	R/R	6-5/230	33	R. Cucamonga	0-0	4.50	3/2	0	8.0	12	4	4	3	7
					Salt Lake	1-2	6.43	3/3	0	14.0	16	10	10	9	8
					Anaheim	7-11	5.77	25/25	0	121.2	135	82	78	58	53
62	Shields, Scot	R/R	6-1/170	28	Anaheim	5-6	2.85	44/13	1	148.1	138	56	47	38	111
54	Turnbow, Derrick	R/R	6-3/200	26	Arkansas	1-0	0.00	7/0	3	14.0	4	0	0	5	19
					Salt Lake	1-2	5.73	35/0	2	55.0	68	36	35	24	63
					Anaheim	2-0	0.59	11/0	0	15.1	7	1	1	3	15
56	Washburn, Jarrod	L/L	6-1/195	29	Anaheim	10-15	4.43	32/32	0	207.1	205	106	102	54	118
77	Weber, Ben	R/R	6-4/205	34	Anaheim	5-1	2.69	62/0	0	80.1	84	26	24	22	46
	Woods, Jake	L/L	6-1/195	22	R. Cucamonga	12-7	4.04	28/28	0	171.1	178	90	77	54	109

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
3	Gregorio, Tom	R/R	6-2/215	26	Salt Lake	.221	54	181	26	40	10	0	5	24	14	44	0
					Anaheim	.158	12	19	1	3	0	0	0	2	1	8	0
1	Molina, Bengie	R/R	5-11/220	29	Anaheim	.281	119	409	37	115	24	0	14	71	13	31	1
28	Molina, Jose	R/R	6-2/220	28	Anaheim	.184	53	114	12	21	4	0	0	6	1	26	0
19	Nieves, Wil	R/R	5-11/190	26	Salt Lake	.283	102	361	48	102	16	2	4	38	25	53	1

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
5	Amezaga, Alfredo	B/R	5-10/165	26	Salt Lake	.347	75	317	55	110	20	5	3	45	20	39	14
					Anaheim	.210	37	105	15	22	3	2	2	7	9	23	2
22	Eckstein, David	R/R	5-7/165	29	Anaheim	.252	120	452	59	114	22	1	3	31	36	45	16
17	Erstad, Darin	L/L	6-2/210	29	Salt Lake	.407	7	27	6	11	0	0	0	4	2	1	1
					Anaheim	.252	67	258	35	65	7	1	4	17	18	40	9
6	Figgins, Chone	B/R	5-7/160	26	Salt Lake	.312	68	285	55	89	14	15	4	30	29	36	16
					Anaheim	.296	71	240	34	71	9	4	0	27	20	38	13
25	Glaus, Troy	R/R	6-5/240	27	Anaheim	.248	91	319	53	79	17	2	16	50	46	73	7
					R. Cucamonga	.333	2	6	1	2	0	0	0	1	3	2	0
2	Kennedy, Adam	L/R	6-1/185	28	R. Cucamonga	.273	3	11	3	3	1	0	1	1	0	2	0
					Anaheim	.269	143	449	71	121	17	1	13	49	45	73	22
	McPherson, Dallas	L/R	6-4/235	23	R. Cucamonga	.308	77	292	65	90	21	6	18	59	41	79	12
					Arkansas	.314	28	102	22	32	4	1	5	27	19	25	4
39	Quinlan, Robb	R/R	6-1/195	27	Salt Lake	.310	95	393	55	122	18	4	9	68	25	59	10
					Anaheim	.287	38	94	13	27	4	2	0	4	6	16	1

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
16	Anderson, Garret	L/L	6-3/225	31	Anaheim	.315	159	638	80	201	49	4	29	116	31	83	6
55	DaVanon, Jeff	B/R	6-0/185	30	Salt Lake	.300	16	60	11	18	4	1	2	14	9	9	4
					Anaheim	.282	123	330	56	93	16	1	12	43	42	59	17
	Guerrero, Vladimir	R/R	6-3/220	28	Brevard County	.500	3	6	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
					Montreal	.330	112	394	71	130	20	3	25	79	63	53	9
	Guillen, Jose	R/R	5-11/190	27	Louisville	.333	4	15	4	5	1	0	0	3	1	3	1
					Cincinnati	.337	91	315	52	106	21	1	23	63	17	63	1
					Oakland	.265	45	170	25	45	7	1	8	23	7	32	0
46	Johnson, Gary	L/L	6-3/210	28	Anaheim	.375	5	8	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
					Salt Lake	.255	121	447	65	114	23	7	12	74	61	112	4
15	Salmon, Tim	R/R	6-3/235	35	Anaheim	.275	148	528	78	145	35	4	19	72	77	93	3
64	Wesson, Barry	R/R	6-2/210	26	Salt Lake	.280	123	475	62	133	27	6	8	53	38	86	17
					Anaheim	.182	10	11	2	2	0	0	1	3	0	4	1

PROJECTED A.L. EAST FINISH: 4TH

ORIOLES

By Gary Washburn/MLB.com

The last six years have been painful for the Orioles. As the organization has steadily declined, the city's focus, once aimed at its baseball team, shifted to the Ravens, who play just a few football fields away from Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Last season, Baltimore's home attendance was 2,454,523, the lowest in 13 years. The organization desperately needed a boost. Club vice presidents Jim Beattie and Mike Flanagan inherited some heavy and immovable contracts, an uninterested fan base, some aging and unproductive players and a ravaged farm system. Their goal was to alter a leaguewide perception that the Orioles were living on past accomplishments.

TSNUMBER

.405

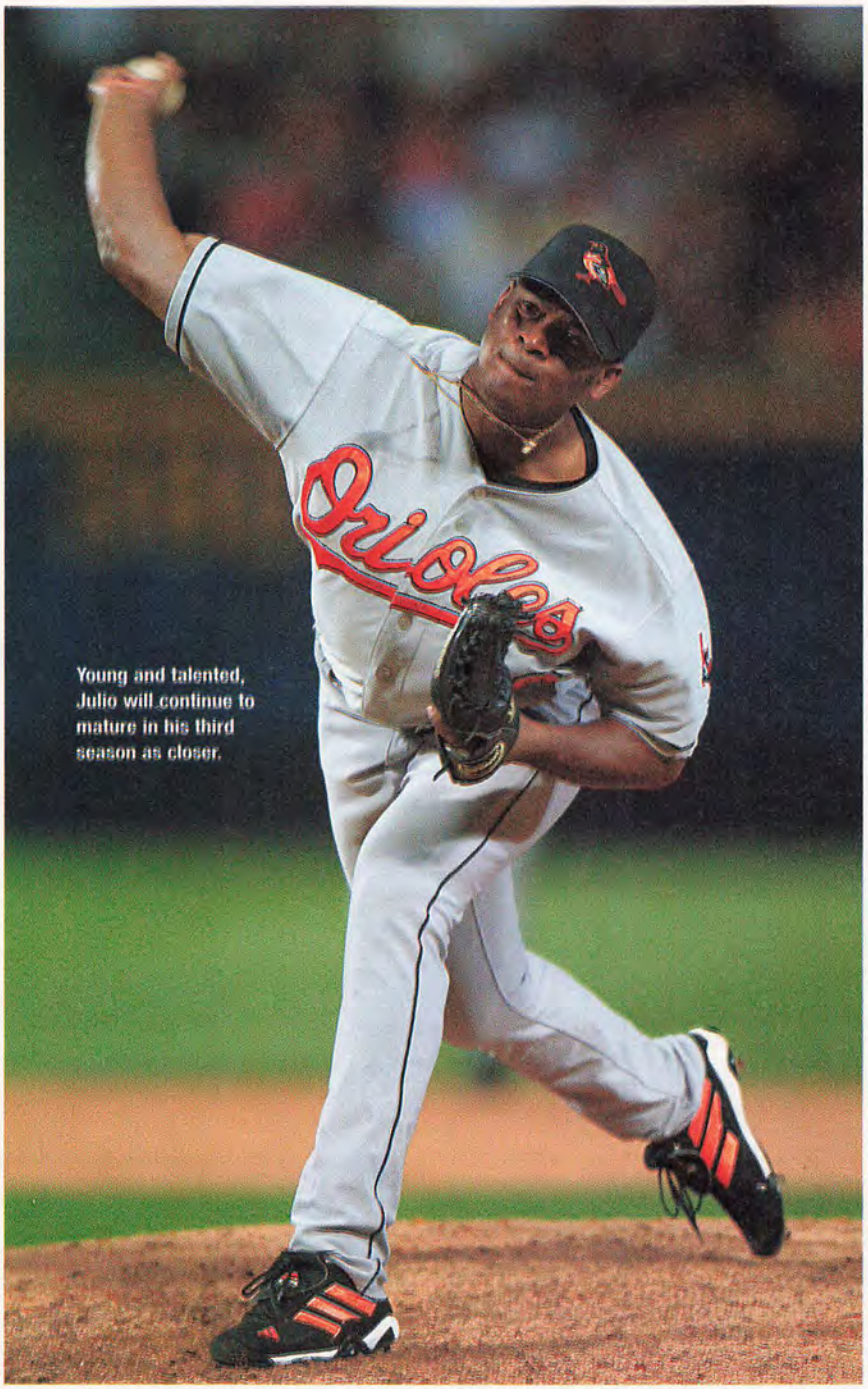
The Orioles' slugging percentage last season ranked 11th in the A.L. To compete, the team needs to improve its overall power hitting.

Since Beattie and Flanagan took charge in December 2002, the team has signed a new manager and farm director, overhauled its roster and revamped its minor league system. Now that the Orioles are finally free of those anchor contracts given to such players as Albert Belle and Scott Erickson, they can pursue the talent to begin a new era.

They already have added two new heavy hitters—former Oakland shortstop Miguel Tejada and Atlanta catcher Javy Lopez—and an old one—first baseman Rafael Palmeiro, who returns to Baltimore for a career-ending encore. The American League East is the toughest division in baseball, and the big bullies to the north, the Red Sox and Yankees, both improved with major offseason acquisitions.

New manager Lee Mazzilli is known for his motivational skills and emotion, and the Orioles hope to take a huge step toward respectability in 2004. Playoff hopes may be far-fetched, but management wants the team to at least be more competitive.

MANAGER Hired in November, Mazzilli is considered the tough, no-nonsense leader this young club needs. As the Yankees' first base coach for the last four years, he was popular with the young players but strict in instilling fundamentals. One of the primary reasons behind the firing of Mike Hargrove was that club officials believed players were walking all over him. That is not likely to happen with Mazzilli.



Young and talented, Julio will continue to mature in his third season as closer.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Mazzilli, who helped the Mets win the 1986 World Series as a player, is close to Yankees manager Joe Torre and figures to use management lessons he learned from him.

The biggest obstacle for Mazzilli will be teaching a team that has experienced little success to compete with the Yankees and Red Sox.

Mazzilli has a strong personality. But it is going to take time for his philosophy to take root. This will be a season of adjustment—for him and the team. Club officials hope Mazzilli will get things headed in the right

direction. **GRADE: C+**

ROTATION This is the team's most uncertain area. But the Orioles do have some potentially productive arms.

Rodrigo Lopez won 15 games in 2002 and was second in Rookie of the Year voting. But last season was a disappointment, marred by injury and inconsistency. The club needs Lopez to return to form, a resurgence that will require better command of his fastball.

Kurt Ainsworth was considered the jewel of the Sidney Ponson deal with the Giants, even though he spent most of last season on the disabled list with a fractured shoulder blade. The big righthander enters spring training as the potential No. 2 starter and has the stuff to fill that role. Ainsworth, however, has never pitched a full major league season and was not sharp when he returned in September.

Lefthanders Eric DuBose and Matt Riley are former top prospects who appear ready to challenge for jobs after recovering from major arm surgeries.

DuBose sliced through the A's system before surgery transformed him from a hard thrower into a finesse pitcher. He flourished in a 17-game trial last season using off-speed stuff, and he appears ready to be a full-time starter.

Riley overcame elbow surgery and pitched well in Class AAA. He made two starts for the Orioles in September and was effective, throwing a crisp fastball and wicked curve. After four years in the farm system, Riley will play a major role.

Another lefty, Omar Daal, is penciled in as the fifth starter, but don't be surprised if he ends up in the bullpen. He was unimpressive in his first Orioles season, losing 10 games by the end of June. His fastball lacked velocity, he had poor command and he struggled consistently the second time through the order.

Daal promised to return in better shape and said he is determined to atone for the poor season. **GRADE: C**

BULLPEN The club made some adjustments in the offseason, letting Kerry Ligtenberg go in favor of harder throwers. Beattie and Flanagan want a more versatile bullpen that can overpower teams rather than finesse them.

Closer Jorge Julio has tremendous talent but has inconsistent command of his fastball and slider. To avoid breakdowns, he needs to trust his off-speed stuff. He is 25 and has plenty of potential.

The Orioles have solid lefthanders in B.J. Ryan, John Parrish and Buddy Groom. Ryan emerged as the team's top setup man by gaining command of his fastball and pitching with more poise. He is the player teams often inquire about in trade talks.

Parrish, who will serve as the No. 2 lefty, escaped some tough jams after being recalled from Class AA last season. Parrish throws hard and uses a freezing changeup as his out pitch. He has jumped ahead of Groom, who is 38 and could be trade bait.

Free-agent signee Mike DeJean brings a power approach and veteran leadership to the young bullpen. DeJean, a former closer, will handle middle relief and occasional setup duties. Rick Bauer, a converted starter, will be given a similar role. The club likes Bauer's sinker, but he does not have the velocity to overpower hitters. **GRADE: C**

CATCHING The Orioles filled a void by signing Lopez, who should provide power in the middle of the order. He hit .328 with 43 home runs and 109 RBIs for the Braves last season.

Those were career numbers for Lopez, who had hit only .233 with 11 homers and 52 RBIs the season before. The Orioles need the 2003 version of Lopez—a solid defensive receiver who can produce runs with his newfound power. Lopez, who says he can play first base in a pinch, also will get some time as the designated hitter.

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. More power. With free-agent acquisitions and the development of such players as LF **Larry Bigbie** and CF **Luis Matos**, the Orioles will not have to score runs with "small ball" as much.
2. A legitimate lefthanded starter. The organization realizes that at least one or two quality lefties are needed for success. **Eric DuBose** should change the recent trend of unproductive southpaws.
3. A .300 season for OF/DH **Jay Gibbons**. Gibbons drove in 100 runs last season and became a better hitter, willing to sacrifice power for average. That will continue.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

They've got a legit guy in (Jay) Gibbons and it showed last year. (Larry) Bigbie is going to be a good player but doesn't hit for enough power yet. They have two good little players in (Jerry) Hairston and (Brian) Roberts. If (Luis) Matos has the type of year he had last year, they could be solid. ... I think they showed you where their weaknesses were defensively. They didn't re-sign (Deivi) Cruz or (Tony) Batista, and sent (Geronimo) Gil down last year. ... Both (Jorge) Julio and (B.J.) Ryan need to be consistent. They are special arms. But throwing the heck out of the ball and being a solid closer or setup man are two different things. Their own manager wasn't always sure of them when they came into the game. Julio can throw hard but he needs to get another pitch because he has become way too predictable. ... I like their young pitching. But they don't have a No. 1 starter and that concerns me.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Jerry Hairston, 2B	**4**
Club expects him to be prototypical leadoff man.	
2. Luis Matos, CF	**6**
Had breakout 2003; needs to avoid injury.	
3. Larry Bigbie, LF	**4**
A great talent; may have shaken injury bug.	
4. Miguel Tejada, SS	**7**
Has great power, but needs more patience.	
5. Javy Lopez, C	**6**
Superb 2003 followed declines in numbers.	
6. Rafael Palmeiro, 1B	**5**
A familiar face in the middle of the lineup.	
7. Jay Gibbons, RF	**5**
Improving as a hitter by sacrificing power.	
8. Melvin Mora, 3B	**5**
Super utilityman needs to stay healthy.	
9. Jack Cust, DH	**4**
Could supply power to bottom of the lineup.	
Starters	
1. Rodrigo Lopez, RH	**5**
Struggled in 2003; has a lot to prove.	
2. Kurt Ainsworth, RH	**4**
Plenty of promise; it is time to fulfill it.	
3. Eric DuBose, LH	**4**
Has overcome injuries and is ready for stardom.	
4. Matt Riley, LH	**4**
Attitude no longer an issue; arm is strong.	
5. Omar Daal, LH	**5**
After poor 2003, he vowed to bounce back.	
Closer	
Jorge Julio, RH	**5**
Throws hard; needs another pitch.	
Total	**73**

Last season, Baltimore fans had to endure the inconsistency of Brook Fordyce, who left as a free agent, and Geronimo Gil, who has not progressed as quickly as expected. Gil was steadier defensively but struck out too much. He will spell Lopez perhaps two days a week. **GRADE: B-**

INFIELD The Orioles envision Tejada as an infield catalyst, a positive influence for both second baseman Jerry Hairston and third baseman Melvin Mora. The Orioles' 2003 left side was shaky, primarily because third baseman Tony Batista and shortstop Deivi Cruz lacked range.

Tejada gives the Orioles a top-notch bat and their most gifted shortstop since Cal Ripken Jr. He is talented enough to prevent runs because of his range.

Mora has not played third base regularly since working there at the Class A level in 1994, but the Orioles hope his versatility and enthusiasm will make him an upgrade over Batista.

Hairston was on his way to a sparkling

season before breaking his foot in May. He is expected to win the job over Brian Roberts, who replaced him during his injury. After years of unproductive uppercut swings, poor plate patience and excessive emotion, Hairston seemed to harness his talent last year. He was the prototypical leadoff hitter, a role the club hopes he can reprise in 2004.

Palmeiro, who hit 182 of his 528 career homers when he played for the Orioles from 1994-98, returns to fill a void at first base and add pop to the middle of the lineup. At age 39, he won't play in the field every day. But he will get a majority of starts while also filling in at DH. When Palmeiro sits, look for David Segui or another familiar face, B.J. Surhoff.

GRADE: B-

OUTFIELD This could be the club's deepest unit because of the emergence of two top prospects.

Larry Bigbie always seemed to get hurt when he was on the cusp of making the major league team. Last season, he overcame injuries and hit .323 over the second half, gaining a firm grip on the left field job. His speed and strong arm make him an above-average defender. On offense, the Orioles would like him to hit for more power. The hope is that Bigbie gains more confidence and becomes dependable in the No. 3 slot.

Center fielder Luis Matos also overcame injuries and sparkled after being called up in May. He finished with a .303 average and, as expected, was one the team's top defensive players. But not expected was the patience Matos suddenly developed, which translated into production. He had 133 hits in his 109 games and coaches expect him, like Bigbie, to develop more power as he matures.

Right fielder Jay Gibbons will round out the outfield. He improved last season defensively, but does not always take the best paths to fly balls. He has a solid arm and does not let up when trying to make a tough catch. Offensively, Gibbons sacrificed power for a better batting average. He shortened his swing and began driving the ball to the opposite field.

Gibbons, who hit 23 homers and drove in 100 runs last year, has emerged as a potential franchise cornerstone.

Marty Cordova is coming off elbow surgery and, if healthy, could spell Bigbie in left. But the club may want to give him more work at designated hitter and not risk hurting his arm again.

Jack Cust is a 25-year-old outfielder with some power. He is not good defensively, but he, too, could handle some DH work if the Orioles do not acquire someone specifically for that job. **GRADE: B-**

Gary Washburn covers the Orioles for MLB.com.

Miguel Tejada

DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

Orioles Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	268	.267
Runs	743	788
Hits	1516	1495
Home runs	152	179
Stolen bases	89	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.76	4.52
Complete games	9	8
Saves	41	38
Walks	526	508
Strikeouts	981	981
Errors	105	105

WINS AND LOSSES

71-91 (4th in A.L. East), 40-40 at home, 31-51 on road, 31-45 vs. A.L. East, 14-18 vs. A.L. Central, 21-15 vs. A.L. West, 5-13 vs. N.L., 17-30 vs. LH starters, 54-61 vs. RH starters, 64-76 on grass, 7-15 on turf, 24-26 in daytime, 47-65 at night, 21-22 in one-run games, 4-10 in extra-inning games, 2-0-1 in doubleheaders.

Lee Mazzilli's record: First season as major league manager.

Postseason: none.

Team record past five years: 353-456 (.436, ranks 26th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Mike DeJean (FA/Cardinals), C Javy Lopez (FA/Braves), 1B Rafael Palmeiro (FA/Rangers), SS Miguel Tejada (FA/Athletics).

Losses: 3B Tony Batista (FA/Expos), SS Deivi Cruz (FA/Devil Rays), RHP Scott Erickson (FA), C Brook Fordyce (FA/Devil Rays), RHP Pat Hentgen (FA/Blue Jays), RHP Jason Johnson (FA/Tigers), RHP Kerry Ligtenberg (FA/Blue Jays), LHP Damian Moss (FA), OF B.J. Surhoff (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: WBAL-AM (1090)
Cable TV: Comcast SportsNet
Website: orioles.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Ottawa (International)
Class AA: Bowie (Eastern)
Class A: Aberdeen (New York-Pennsylvania), Frederick (Carolina), Delmarva (South Atlantic)
Rookie: Bluefield (Appalachian)

Oriole Park at Camden Yards

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 48,190
Ticket information: 888-848-2473

Spring training: Fort Lauderdale Stadium (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)
Ticket information: 954-776-1921

Orioles Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 BOS	5	6 BOS	7 BOS	8 BOS	9 TB	10 TB
11 TB	12	13 BOS	14 BOS	15 BOS	16 TOR	17 TOR
18 TOR	19	20 TB	21 TB	22 TB	23 TOR	24 TOR
25 TOR	26 SEA	27 SEA	28 SEA	29 SEA	30 CLE	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 CLE
2 CLE	3 CHW	4 CHW	5 CHW	6	7 CLE	8 CLE
9 CLE	10	11 CHW	12 CHW	13 CHW	14 ANA	15 ANA
16 ANA	17	18 SEA	19 SEA	20 SEA	21 ANA	22 ANA
23 ANA	24	25 NYY	26 NYY	27 NYY	28 DET	29 DET
30 DET	31					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 NYY	2 NYY	3 NYY	4 TB	5 TB
6 TB	7	8 ARI	9 ARI	10 ARI	11 SF	12 SF
13 SF	14	15 LA	16 LA	17 LA	18 COL	19 COL
20 COL	21	22 NYY	23 NYY	24 NYY	25 ATL	26 ATL
27 ATL	28 KC	29 KC	30 KC			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 KC	2 PHI	3 PHI
4 PHI	5 TB	6 TB	7 TB	8	9 KC	10 KC
11 KC	12	13 All-Star	14	15 TB	16 TB	17 TB
18 TB	19 KC	20 KC	21 BOS	22 BOS	23 MIN	24 MIN
25 MIN	26 BOS	27 BOS	28 BOS	29 NYY	30 NYY	31 NYY

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 NYY	2	3 SEA	4 SEA	5	6 TEX	7 TEX
8 TEX	9 TEX	10 ANA	11 ANA	12 ANA	13 TOR	14 TOR
15 TOR	16 OAK	17 OAK	18 OAK	19	20 TOR	21 TOR
22 TOR	23 OAK	24 OAK	25 OAK	26 OAK	27 TEX	28 TEX
29 TEX	30	31 TB				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 TB	2 TB	3 NYY	4 NYY
5 NYY	6 MIN	7 MIN	8 MIN	9	10 NYY	11 NYY
12 NYY	13 TOR	14	15 TOR	16 TOR	17 MIN	18 MIN
19 MIN	20 BOS	21 BOS	22 BOS	23 BOS	24 DET	25 DET
26 DET	27 TOR	28 TOR	29 TOR	30 TOR		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 BOS	2 BOS
3 BOS	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Lee Mazzilli (13). Coaches: Terry Crowley (48), Rick Dempsey (24), Elrod Hendricks (44), Sam Perlozzo (2), Tom Trebelhorn (49), Mark Wiley (34).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
29	Ainsworth, Kurt	R/R	6-3/192	25	San Francisco	5-4	3.82	11/11	0	66.0	66	31	28	26	48
					Fresno	0-0	4.50	1/1	0	2.0	2	1	1	2	1
					Baltimore	0-1	11.57	3/0	0	2.1	6	3	3	1	4
30	Bauer, Rick	R/R	6-6/218	27	Ottawa	3-1	2.45	7/7	0	36.2	31	10	10	13	21
					Baltimore	0-0	4.55	35/0	0	61.1	58	36	31	24	43
	Bautista, Denny	R/R	6-5/170	21	Jupiter	8-4	3.21	14/14	0	84.0	68	32	30	35	77
					Carolina	4-5	3.71	11/11	0	53.1	45	33	22	35	61
79	Bedard, Erik	L/L	6-1/180	25	Frederick	0-1	7.36	1/1	0	3.2	5	3	3	1	2
					G.C. Orioles	0-0	1.13	3/3	0	8.0	4	1	1	2	11
					Aberdeen	0-0	2.35	2/2	0	7.2	7	2	2	1	13
	Cabrera, Danel	R/r	6-7/220	22	Delmarva	5-9	4.24	26/26	0	125.1	105	74	59	78	120
	Crouthers, Dave	R/R	6-3/205	23	Frederick	7-5	3.59	18/18	0	92.2	83	47	37	43	82
					Bowie	4-2	3.80	9/9	0	45.0	37	20	19	18	29
14	Daal, Omar	L/L	6-3/193	32	Bowie	0-0	12.00	1/1	0	3.0	5	4	4	2	2
					Baltimore	4-11	6.34	19/17	0	93.2	134	69	66	30	53
	DeJean, Mike	R/R	6-4/217	33	Milwaukee	4-7	4.87	58/0	18	64.2	69	38	35	27	58
					St. Louis	1-1	4.00	18/0	1	18.0	17	8	8	12	13
59	DuBose, Eric	L/L	6-3/233	27	Ottawa	9-5	3.39	19/19	0	114.0	112	49	43	34	107
					Baltimore	3-6	3.79	17/10	0	73.2	60	33	31	25	44
	Forystek, Brian	L/L	6-1/175	25	Bowie	9-9	3.39	29/21	0	124.2	116	57	47	42	103
27	Groom, Buddy	L/L	6-2/201	38	Baltimore	1-3	5.36	60/0	1	45.1	58	27	27	14	34
	Hannaman, Ryan	L/L	6-3/190	22	San Jose	4-4	4.71	13/13	0	63.0	66	41	33	32	77
					Arizona Giants	1-1	4.38	4/4	0	12.1	8	6	6	7	14
					Frederick	1-3	3.79	5/5	0	19.0	14	9	8	17	22
50	Julio, Jorge	R/R	6-1/223	25	Baltimore	0-7	4.38	64/0	36	61.2	60	36	30	34	52
	Loewen, Adam	L/L	6-6/230	23	Aberdeen	0-2	2.70	7/7	0	23.1	13	7	7	9	25
13	Lopez, Rodrigo	R/R	6-1/187	28	Bowie	1-0	0.00	1/1	0	6.1	3	0	0	0	13
					Baltimore	7-10	5.82	26/26	0	147.0	188	101	95	43	103
36	Parrish, John	L/L	5-11/181	26	Bowie	3-3	2.00	49/0	6	76.1	58	22	17	33	85
					Baltimore	0-1	1.90	14/0	0	23.2	17	7	5	8	15
35	Riley, Matt	L/L	6-1/201	24	Bowie	5-2	3.11	14/14	0	72.1	56	27	25	23	73
					Ottawa	4-2	3.58	13/13	0	70.1	70	30	28	28	77
					Baltimore	1-0	1.80	2/2	0	10.0	7	2	2	5	8
	Rodriguez, Eddy	R/R	6-1/195	22	Bowie	3-4	2.34	56/0	13	73.0	49	26	19	35	66
52	Ryan, B.J.	L/L	6-6/247	28	Baltimore	4-1	3.40	76/0	0	50.1	42	19	19	27	63
28	Stephens, John	R/R	6-1/204	24	Ottawa	6-7	3.97	27/27	0	158.2	155	76	70	39	132

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
17	Gil, Geronimo	R/R	6-2/227	28	Ottawa	.351	36	134	15	47	10	0	1	17	7	28	0
					Baltimore	.237	54	169	22	40	4	0	3	16	12	34	0
18	Lopez, Javy	R/R	6-3/215	33	Atlanta	.328	129	457	89	150	29	3	43	109	33	90	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Bautista, Jose	R/R	6-2/205	23	Lynchburg	.242	51	165	28	40	14	2	4	20	27	48	1
21	Cust, Jack	L/R	6-1/225	25	Ottawa	.285	97	333	55	95	18	1	9	58	80	94	5
					Baltimore	.260	27	73	7	19	7	0	4	11	10	25	0
15	Hairston Jr., Jerry	R/R	5-10/185	27	Bowie	.300	6	20	4	6	1	0	1	2	1	4	0
					Aberdeen	.333	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
					Baltimore	.271	58	218	25	59	12	2	2	21	23	25	14
6	Mora, Melvin	R/R	5-11/198	32	Bowie	.286	6	21	3	6	0	0	2	5	2	4	0
					Baltimore	.317	96	344	68	109	17	1	15	48	49	71	6
12	Morban, Jose	B/R	6-1/170	24	Baltimore	.141	61	71	14	10	0	0	2	5	3	21	8
	Palmeiro, Rafael	L/L	6-0/190	39	Texas	.260	154	561	92	146	21	2	38	112	84	77	2
1	Roberts, Brian	B/R	5-9/172	26	Ottawa	.315	44	178	36	56	13	1	0	15	27	12	19
					Baltimore	.270	112	460	65	124	22	4	5	41	46	58	23
23	Segui, David	S/L	6-1/216	37	Frederick	.250	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
					Baltimore	.263	67	224	26	59	10	1	5	25	26	47	1
4	Tejada, Miguel	R/R	5-9/200	27	Oakland	.278	162	636	98	177	42	0	27	106	53	65	10
	Young, Walter	L/R	6-5/295	24	Lynchburg	.278	117	431	76	120	15	2	20	87	35	88	2

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
3	Bigbie, Larry	L/L	6-4/215	26	G.C. Orioles	.333	2	6	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
					Ottawa	.350	30	117	23	41	14	4	3	21	14	31	0
					Baltimore	.303	83	287	43	87	15	1	9	31	29	60	7
40	Cordova, Marty	R/R	6-0/213	34	Baltimore	.233	9	30	5	7	1	0	1	4	8	5	1
25	Gibbons, Jay	L/L	6-0/193	27	Baltimore	.277	160	625	80	173	39	2	23	100	49	89	0
32	Matos, Luis	R/R	6-0/208	25	Ottawa	.303	45	175	28	53	16	4	1	25	13	34	6
					Baltimore	.303	109	439	70	133	23	3	13	45	28	90	15
	McDonald, Darnell	R/R	5-11/210	25	Ottawa	.296	40	152	19	45	7	1	0	20	18	27	5
	Raines Jr., Tim	B/R	5-10/183	24	Bowie	.308	66	247	44	76	15	4	4	26	21	40	28
					Ottawa	.299	52	214	37	64	11	5	3	23	19	37	23
					Baltimore	.140	20	43	4	6	1	1	0	2	2	12	0

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Tim Corcoran, RHP Darwin Cubillan, RHP Mike Paradis, RHP Willis Roberts, IF Napoleon Calzado, SS Felix Escalona, IF Eddy Garabito, 1B Chris Lemonis, 3B Jose Leon, IF Luis Lopez, IF/OF B.J. Surhoff, C Raul Casanova, C Bill Haselman, C Carlos Mendez, OF Cory Harris, OF Chad Mottola, OF Pedro Swann.

PROJECTED A.L. EAST FINISH: 1ST

RED SOX

By Ian Browne/MLB.com

The agony of the American League Championship Series Game 7 meltdown against the Yankees easily was quelled by an offseason of excitement for the Red Sox.

General manager Theo Epstein reeled in Curt Schilling from Arizona in what could wind up being one of the most successful trades in team history. Schilling will go from teaming with one superb pitcher (Randy Johnson) to another (Pedro Martinez).

The rivalry with the Yankees got even richer during the winter. Every move Epstein made seemed to be countered by the Yankees, who added Kevin Brown and Javier Vazquez to their rotation.

By acquiring Keith Foulke from the A's, the Red Sox ensured that their closer situation will be dramatically better than last year.

The 2003 Red Sox boasted a dominant offense that set big-league records for slugging percentage and extra bases. With better pitching, the Sox will not have to be so reliant on their big bats.

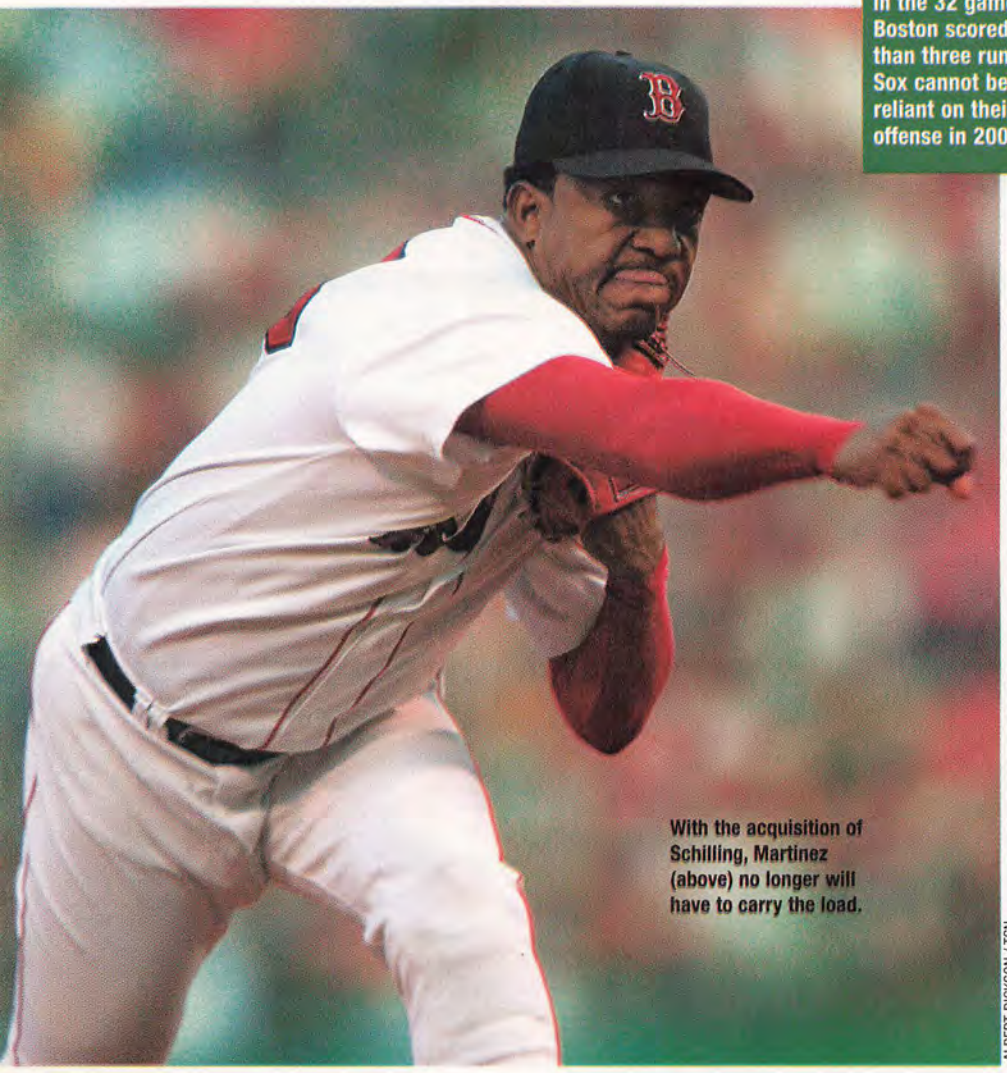
But they still should receive plenty of production with Johnny Damon and Bill Mueller setting the table for the likes of Nomar Garciaparra, Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz.

After finishing second in the A.L. East Division each of the last six years, this Red Sox team has a good shot to win its first title since 1995.

TSNUMBER

.156

Winning percentage in the 32 games Boston scored fewer than three runs. The Sox cannot be so reliant on their offense in 2004.



With the acquisition of Schilling, Martinez (above) no longer will have to carry the load.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

MANAGER Following an ill-fated four-year run (1997-2000) in Philadelphia, Terry Francona could not have picked a better spot to get his second crack at managing. He inherits a team filled with accomplished veterans and, barring injuries, the Red Sox should be in the pennant race. Boston chose Francona because of his energetic and enthusiastic personality, his deep background in the game and his open-mindedness when it comes to quantitative analysis, something that will mesh well with his new bosses.

If there is a perception—fair or not—that Francona brings with him, it's that he was too nice in Philadelphia. Perhaps he was too much of a player's manager.

One thing that should make Francona more suited for Boston than predecessor Grady Little is that he has spent most of his life in the Northeast. He understands the mentality and the passion of the rabid fan base, which will make him better able to handle the constant second-guessing than Little.

Francona has talked often about how the lumps he took in Philadelphia will make him a better manager this time around. Now, he will get a chance to prove it. **GRADE: C**

ROTATION The Red Sox will have their most prolific rotation combo in recent memory as Schilling joins three-time Cy Young winner Martinez. Schilling should pay huge dividends, thanks to his work ethic and fiery nature. He also will take some of the load off Martinez. The 37-year-old Schilling, who has a similar body type to Roger Clemens, seemingly has gotten better with age. And pitching in Boston might take his game to a higher level.

Martinez does not have the explosive fastball of years past, but his knowledge of pitching and ability to locate still make him one of the best in the game.

There is not much drop to the No. 3 slot, where Derek Lowe can lay claim to a team-high 38 wins over the last two seasons. Lowe has one of the best sinkers in the league and again will live and die with that pitch. And as in any season, he will rely heavily on his middle infielders to field ground balls.

Veteran knuckleballer Tim Wakefield proved last season that moving back into the rotation was wise. Wakefield consistently eats up innings and keeps Boston in games.

Sidewinding righthander Byung-Hyun Kim should have the inside track on the fifth

slot. Kim, who has been a closer most of his career, began last season as a starter for Arizona but went back to closing shortly after his arrival in Boston. The jury still is out on Kim. **GRADE: A-**

BULLPEN A trouble spot for much of last season, the Sox picked up one of the best closers in the game. Foulke, a righthander, is dependable and durable, a smart "pitcher" who relies on control and can work multiple innings.

The Sox also should have a formidable setup crew, especially with the return of Scott Williamson, who was dominant in the postseason. With a fastball that sometimes reaches 96 mph, Williamson also has a nasty splitter. His biggest problem is control.

The Sox boast a dependable righty-lefty punch in Mike Timlin and Alan Embree. Thanks to his commitment to conditioning, Timlin has pitched some of the best baseball of his career the last two years. He consistently throws in the low 90s with nasty sink. Embree throws almost all gas. He is not a lefty specialist and in fact performs better against righthanded hitters. Like Timlin, he never is scared in a big spot.

Mark Malaska, who was claimed off waivers from the Devil Rays, could give the Sox a second lefthander. And a lot of people forget Ramiro Mendoza still is on the team. The swing man disappeared late, thanks to a disastrous first few months. Perhaps that will drive Mendoza to a bounce-back year. He is in the final year of his contract, which could motivate him. The Sox likely will use Mendoza as their primary long man.

Another guy to keep an eye on is Bronson Arroyo. He was a starter in the minor leagues, but the Red Sox think he has the stuff to be a strong setup man. **GRADE: B**

CATCHING When you consider the whole package, Jason Varitek is one of the elite catchers in the A.L. He obsesses over his study of opposing hitters, almost to the point of becoming a second pitching coach. Varitek is among the best at calling a game, and almost every pitcher he has caught the last few seasons provides glowing reviews.

If Varitek has a weakness, it is throwing. Still, that flaw is overlooked when you consider his offensive production. The switch hitter is coming off a career year and the Red Sox probably will try to sign him to a multi-year extension as he enters the final year of his current deal. Varitek is not just Boston's field general; he also is the clubhouse leader.

Doug Mirabelli knows his role is to back up, which is probably why he's so good at it. When Mirabelli spells Varitek, the Sox do not lose a lot defensively. He is Wakefield's regular catcher and adeptly handles the unpredictable knuckleball. Mirabelli's main offensive contribution is the occasional home run. **GRADE: B+**

INFIELD After enduring an unsettling off-season of trade rumors, star shortstop Garciaparra will be back for his ninth year with the Red Sox. He finished last season on a down note, hitting .160 in September and struggling throughout the playoffs. But given the type of competitor he is, that lackluster finish probably will drive Garciaparra to a monster year. The Red Sox might be wise to give Garciaparra more rest—he wore down late the last few years. Garciaparra still is capable of making the spectacular defensive play, though he makes too many errors.

Mueller's productivity was a major surprise. Teams undoubtedly will make adjustments to a player entering his second season in the A.L. While Mueller is not likely to win another batting title and his power numbers probably will drop, he should continue to get on base and score. He is a steady defender at third base.

Kevin Millar was a constant source of energy in the clubhouse and on the field. And he was a positive influence in his first Boston season. Millar had a big first half, but cooled off late. The Green Monster might have gotten Millar into some bad habits offensively, as he became a little too pull happy. He proved to be a better defensive first baseman than most people realized.

The heavy-hitting Ortiz, who finished fifth in the 2003 A.L. MVP voting, will get the occasional start at first base. But he primarily will be the designated hitter. The left-handed-hitting Ortiz is a perfect fit for Fenway Park because of his ability to go to the opposite field and use the Monster to his advantage.

Free-agent second baseman Todd Walker defected to the Chicago Cubs and the Red Sox signed Pokey Reese to replace him. Reese, a two-time Gold Glove winner with Cincinnati, gives the team a defensive lift up the middle and needs only to keep his average in the .250 range to be an asset. He also adds speed to the equation.

If Reese falters, look for versatile Mark Bellhorn to step into the mix. Bellhorn also is an offensive question. **GRADE: B-**

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. RHPs **Pedro Martinez** and **Curt Schilling** finishing 1-2 in the American League in the three major pitching categories (wins, ERA and strikeouts).
2. A noticeable drop in offensive output. The Red Sox set major league records for extra-base hits and slugging percentage in 2003. Expecting them to approach that level again is unrealistic.
3. A bounce-back season from CF **Johnny Damon**. He will showcase the form that made him a blossoming star during his last two seasons at Kansas City.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

Last year, they had a bunch of guys who had career years. You had Jason Varitek putting up big numbers in the nine hole. There was no letdown. Even if they don't duplicate those numbers but just decline a little, they will still be able to do some damage. ... Pedro Martinez's stuff is short of what it was before the arm injury in 2001, but he still has great pitching instincts. He still brings great ability to the park every fifth day. He has lost 4 or 5 mph on his fastball, but his change and curveball were as good as ever. He has gone from being the best in the game to one of the best. ... (Curt) Schilling is really going to help them. He's a horse. Besides having good stuff, he has pretty good command of it. He has that phenomenal walk ratio and he throws 94 (mph). He's never in trouble. What a competitor. Age isn't a big factor for him. He has been around so long, he knows what happens if he doesn't stay in shape.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Johnny Damon, CF	**5**
Best basestealing threat on team.	
2. Bill Mueller, 3B	**5**
Defending A.L. batting champ.	
3. Nomar Garciaparra, SS	**7**
One of the game's best all-around hitters.	
4. Manny Ramirez, LF	**7**
A virtual lock for .300-35-100.	
5. David Ortiz, DH	**5**
Can he match last year's breakout?	
6. Kevin Millar, 1B	**5**
Hopes to have a better second half this year.	
7. Trot Nixon, RF	**6**
Perhaps the team's most underrated hitter.	
8. Jason Varitek, C	**5**
Rock behind the plate, improved offensively.	
9. Pokey Reese, 2B	**5**
Brings Gold Glove defense to middle infield.	
Starters	
1. Pedro Martinez, RH	**8**
Doesn't throw as hard, but still one of the best.	
2. Curt Schilling, RH	**8**
A bulldog who should thrive in Boston.	
3. Derek Lowe, RH	**7**
Less pressure with Schilling on board.	
4. Tim Wakefield, RH	**6**
Best knuckleball in the game; an innings-eater.	
5. Byung-Hyun Kim, RH	**4**
Sidewinder will get his chance to start.	
Closer	
Keith Foulke, RH	**7**
Great changeup and durable.	
Total	**90**

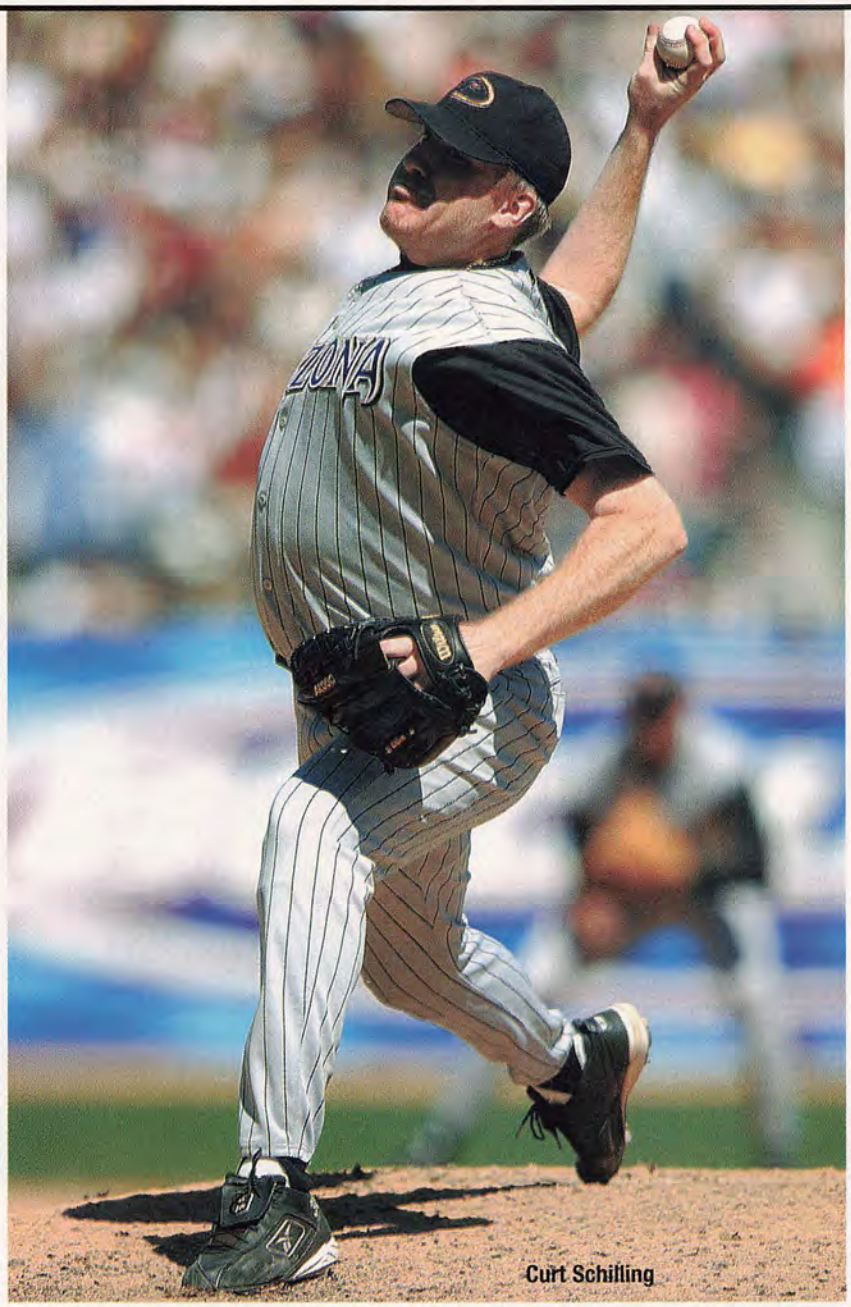
OUTFIELD Talk about a rocky offseason for Ramirez. The Red Sox placed him on irrevocable waivers in late October, but nobody claimed him. Their next plan was to package him to the Rangers for Alex Rodriguez. No go. So, Ramirez will be back for a fourth Boston season. As focused as Ramirez is on hitting, the uncertainty of the winter probably will not be a factor. He is still a virtual lock to smash close to 40 homers and drive in more than 100 runs.

Though Ramirez often is criticized for his defense, he actually is a decent left fielder. In fact, he showed noticeable improvement in 2003, making several spectacular catches. Sure, Ramirez will make an occasional mental mistake on the bases or in the field, but he compensates with his production.

Damon is Boston's fastest runner and best defensive player. He catches everything in center field, which makes up for his weak arm. Damon also is a good leadoff man, albeit inconsistent with his bat. He is a clutch hitter and, entering his third season in Boston, one of the team's most popular players. Damon produces more extra-base hits than your average leadoff hitter, but he sometimes goes through phases where he hits too many fly balls. Damon is at his best when hitting well-placed squibbers down the first- or third-base lines and using his speed to gain extra bases.

If there is a player who embodies what Boston expects from its professional athletes, it is right fielder Trot Nixon. You will not find a grittier player. Last season, Nixon avoided the prolonged slumps that plagued him in years past. His main weakness is lefthanded pitching. But in fairness to Nixon, his previous managers have not given him much playing time against lefties. Perhaps that will change with Francona. Nixon is a solid outfielder, although his arm can be erratic. **GRADE: B+**

Ian Browne covers the Red Sox for MLB.com.



Curt Schilling

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Red Sox Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.289	.267
Runs	961	788
Hits	1667	1495
Home runs	238	179
Stolen bases	88	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.48	4.52
Complete games	5	8
Saves	36	38
Walks	488	508
Strikeouts	1141	981
Errors	113	105

WINS AND LOSSES

95-67 (2nd in A.L. East), 53-28 at home, 42-39 on road, 41-35 vs. A.L. East, 24-12 vs. A.L. Central, 19-13 vs. A.L. West, 11-7 vs. N.L., 26-27 vs. LH starters, 69-40 vs. RH starters, 84-53 on grass, 11-14 on turf, 28-22 in daytime, 67-45 at night, 26-16 in one-run games, 11-5 in extra-inning games, 1-0-0 in doubleheaders.
Terry Francona's record: 285-363, 4 seasons with Phillies.
Postseason: none.
Team record past five years: 449-360 (.555, ranks 7th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: IF Mark Bellhorn (trade/Rockies), 1B/OF Brian Daubach (FA/White Sox), RHP Keith Foulke (FA/Athletics), LHP Mark Malaska (FA/Devil Rays), 2B Pokey Reese (FA/Pirates), RHP Curt Schilling (trade/Diamondbacks).
Losses: RHP John Burkett (FA), LHP Casey Fossum (trade/Diamondbacks), DH/OF Jeremy Giambi (FA); C Bill Haselman (FA), IF Damian Jackson (FA/Rockies), RHP Todd Jones (FA), RHP Brandon Lyon (trade/Diamondbacks), IF Lou Merloni (FA), LHP Scott Sauerbeck (FA), RHP Jeff Suppan (FA/Cardinals), 2B Todd Walker (FA/Cubs).

MEDIA

Radio: WEEI-AM (680)
Cable TV: New England Sports Network
Website: redsox.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Pawtucket (International)
Class AA: Portland (Eastern)
Class A: Augusta (South Atlantic), Lowell (New York-Pennsylvania), Sarasota (Florida State)
Rookie: Gulf Coast Red Sox (Gulf Coast)

Fenway Park

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 33,991
Ticket information: 617-267-1700, 617-482-4769

Spring training: City of Palms Park (Fort Myers, Fla.)
Ticket information: 941-334-4700

Red Sox Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 BAL	5	6 BAL	7 BAL	8 BAL	9 TOR	10 TOR
11 TOR	12	13 BAL	14 BAL	15 BAL	16 NYY	17 NYY
18 NYY	19 NYY	20 TOR	21 TOR	22 TOR	23 NYY	24 NYY
25 NYY	26	27 TB	28 TB	29 TB	30 TEX	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 TEX
2 TEX	3 CLE	4 CLE	5 CLE	6 CLE	7 KC	8 KC
9 KC	10 CLE	11 CLE	12 CLE	13 TOR	14 TOR	15 TOR
16 TOR	17	18 TB	19 TB	20 TB	21 TOR	22 TOR
23 TOR	24	25 OAK	26 OAK	27 OAK	28 SEA	29 SEA
30 SEA	31					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 ANA	2 ANA	3	4 KC	5 KC
6 KC	7	8 SD	9 SD	10 SD	11 LA	12 LA
13 LA	14	15 COL	16 COL	17 COL	18 SF	19 SF
20 SF	21	22 MIN	23 MIN	24 MIN	25 PHI	26 PHI
27 PHI	28	29 NYY	30 NYY			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 NYY	2 ATL	3 ATL
4 ATL	5	6 OAK	7 OAK	8 OAK	9 TEX	10 TEX
11 TEX	12	13 All-Star	14	15 ANA	16 ANA	17 ANA
18 ANA	19 SEA	20 SEA	21 BAL	22 BAL	23 NYY	24 NYY
25 NYY	26 BAL	27 BAL	28 BAL	29	30 MIN	31 MIN

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 MIN	2 TB	3 TB	4 TB	5	6 DET	7 DET
8 DET	9 TB	10 TB	11 TB	12 TB	13 CHW	14 CHW
15 CHW	16 TOR	17 TOR	18 TOR	19	20 CHW	21 CHW
22 CHW	23 TOR	24 TOR	25 TOR	26 DET	27 DET	28 DET
29 DET	30	31 ANA				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 ANA	2 ANA	3 TEX	4 TEX
5 TEX	6 OAK	7 OAK	8 OAK	9 SEA	10 SEA	11 SEA
12 SEA	13	14 TB	15 TB	16 TB	17 NYY	18 NYY
19 NYY	20 BAL	21 BAL	22 BAL	23 BAL	24 NYY	25 NYY
26 NYY	27 TB	28 TB	29 TB	30		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 BAL	2 BAL
3 BAL	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Terry Francona (16). Coaches: Ron Jackson, Lynn Jones, Brad Mills, Euclides Rojas, Dave Wallace.

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
61	Arroyo, Bronson	R/R	6-5/190	27	Pawtucket	12-6	3.43	24/24	0	149.2	148	66	57	23	155
					Boston	0-0	2.08	6/0	1	17.1	10	5	4	4	14
	Bean, Colter	R/R	6-6/255	27	Trenton	0-0	0.00	3/0	0	4.2	2	0	0	2	9
					Columbus	4-2	2.87	50/0	4	69.0	53	33	22	27	70
	Brown, Jamie	R/R	6-2/205	27	Buffalo	4-4	3.52	13/10	0	61.1	45	26	24	17	26
					Pawtucket	4-1	2.26	18/3	1	51.2	40	17	13	5	39
	Dinardo, Lenny	L/L	6-4/195	24	Binghamton	1-3	3.60	7/7	0	40.0	35	19	16	13	36
					St. Lucie	3-8	2.01	19/13	1	85.0	64	27	19	14	93
43	Embree, Alan	L/L	6-2/190	34	Sarasota	0-0	13.50	1/1	0	.2	2	1	1	0	2
					Boston	4-1	4.25	65/0	1	55.0	49	26	26	16	45
29	Foulke, Keith	R/R	6-0/210	31	Oakland	9-1	2.08	72/0	43	86.2	57	21	20	20	88
	Gamble, Jerome	R/R	6-2/200	23	Sarasota	6-4	3.66	17/14	0	76.1	68	36	31	21	51
					Portland	2-0	4.91	2/2	0	11.0	10	6	6	1	11
	Hamulack, Tim	L/L	6-4/210	27	Tacoma	1-0	3.86	10/0	0	14.0	16	6	6	8	12
	Hebson, Bryan	R/R	6-5/210	28	Edmonton	6-0	4.36	30/0	6	43.1	44	23	21	22	44
					Montreal	0-0	13.50	2/0	0	2.0	4	3	3	1	1
					Pawtucket	2-1	2.73	18/0	0	26.1	17	9	8	6	22
51	Kim, Byung-Hyun	R/R	5-9/180	25	Tucson	1-1	2.55	3/3	0	17.2	17	5	5	1	8
					Arizona	1-5	3.56	7/7	0	43.0	34	17	17	15	33
					Boston	8-5	3.18	49/5	16	79.1	70	38	28	18	69
32	Lowe, Derek	R/R	6-6/214	30	Boston	17-7	4.47	33/33	0	203.1	216	113	101	72	110
	Malaska, Mark	L/L	6-3/191	26	Orlando	1-1	2.16	19/0	1	25.0	21	6	6	4	22
					Durham	1-1	4.30	15/0	0	23.0	24	12	11	8	22
					Tampa Bay	2-1	2.81	22/0	0	16.0	13	7	5	12	17
	Martinez, Anas.	R/R	6-2/180	23	Pawtucket	2-1	1.93	8/0	0	14.0	12	3	3	3	15
					Portland	3-1	2.25	34/0	14	40.0	31	13	10	24	37
45	Martinez, Pedro	R/R	5-11/180	32	Boston	14-4	2.22	29/29	0	186.2	147	52	46	47	206
26	Mendoza, Ramiro	R/R	6-2/195	31	G.C. Red Sox	0-0	0.00	2/2	0	7.0	3	0	0	0	4
					Sarasota	1-0	0.00	1/1	0	5.0	2	0	0	1	4
					Pawtucket	0-0	2.00	4/0	1	9.0	8	2	2	0	8
					Boston	3-5	6.75	37/5	0	66.2	98	51	50	20	36
38	Schilling, Curt	R/R	6-5/235	37	Tucson	1-0	4.50	2/2	0	10.0	10	5	5	3	15
					Arizona	8-9	2.95	24/24	0	168.0	144	58	55	32	194
	Seibel, Phil	L/L	6-1/195	24	Norfolk	2-3	6.03	11/5	0	34.1	38	25	23	17	25
					Binghamton	5-5	3.59	17/17	0	82.2	79	48	33	32	71
50	Timlin, Mike	R/R	6-4/210	38	Boston	6-4	3.55	72/0	2	83.2	77	37	33	9	65
49	Wakefield, Tim	R/R	6-2/214	37	Boston	11-7	4.09	35/33	1	202.1	193	106	92	71	169
48	Williamson, Scott	R/R	6-0/185	28	Cincinnati	5-3	3.19	42/0	21	42.1	34	15	15	25	53
					Boston	0-1	6.20	24/0	0	20.1	20	15	14	9	21

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Dominique, Andy	R/R	6-0/220	28	Portland	.361	32	97	18	35	7	0	3	21	16	15	0
					Pawtucket	.304	79	289	42	88	18	0	13	57	22	45	2
28	Mirabelli, Doug	R/R	6-1/227	33	Boston	.258	62	163	23	42	13	0	6	18	11	36	0
33	Varitek, Jason	B/R	6-2/237	31	Boston	.273	142	451	63	123	31	1	25	85	51	106	3

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Bellhorn, Mark	B/R	6-1/205	29	Chicago N.L.	.209	51	139	15	29	7	1	2	22	29	46	3
					Colo. Springs	.389	16	54	11	21	5	1	4	16	11	10	2
					Colorado	.236	48	110	12	26	3	0	0	4	21	32	2
5	Garciaparra, N.	R/R	6-0/190	30	Boston	.301	156	658	120	198	37	13	28	105	39	61	19
15	Millar, Kevin	R/R	6-0/210	32	Boston	.276	148	544	83	150	30	1	25	96	60	108	3
11	Mueller, Bill	B/R	5-10/180	33	Boston	.326	146	524	85	171	45	5	19	85	59	77	1
34	Ortiz, David	L/L	6-4/230	28	Boston	.288	128	448	79	129	39	2	31	101	58	83	0
	Reese, Pokey	R/R	5-11/180	30	Pittsburgh	.215	37	107	9	23	2	0	1	12	9	31	6
	Youkilis, Kevin	R/R	6-1/220	24	Portland	.327	94	312	74	102	23	1	6	37	86	40	7
					Pawtucket	.165	32	109	9	18	3	0	2	15	18	21	0

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
18	Damon, Johnny	L/L	6-2/190	30	Boston	.273	145	608	103	166	32	6	12	67	68	74	30
28	Kapler, Gabe	R/R	6-2/208	28	Colorado	.224	39	67	10	15	2	0	0	4	8	18	2
					Colorado Springs	.171	13	35	5	6	2	1	0	2	8	10	4
					Lowell	.667	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
					Portland	.333	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
					Boston	.291	68	158	29	46	11	1	4	23	14	23	4
7	Nixon, Trot	L/L	6-2/211	29	Boston	.306	134	441	81	135	24	6	28	87	65	96	4
24	Ramirez, Manny	R/R	6-0/213	31	Boston	.325	154	569	117	185	36	1	37	104	97	94	3

Spring Training Invitees: RHP, Edwin Almonte, RHP Jason Shiell, OF-1B Brian Daubach, OF-1B David McCarty.

CHICAGO

PROJECTED A.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 3RD

WHITE SOX

By Scott Merkin/MLB.com

The rumors began swirling in early June, when the White Sox slipped eight games under .500. Those same rumors continued throughout the All-Star break, when the team found itself seven games behind the division-leading Kansas City Royals.

White Sox manager Jerry Manuel not only was going to be dismissed, but general manager Kenny Williams was on the verge of dismantling the team. In reality, nothing could have been further from the truth.

Manuel made it through the season, leading the White Sox to a share of first place in the American League Central as late as September 14. Williams increased his team's chances for a division title by adding such veterans as Roberto Alomar, Carl Everett, Scott Sullivan and Scott Schoeneweis.

Schoeneweis, a lefthanded pitcher, is the lone holdover from those bold July and August moves, but that does not mean Williams is lacking determined to keep the White Sox in prime contention. After such a disappointing finish to what could have been an ultimately satisfying season, he is more focused than ever on bringing a championship to the South Side.

Williams' preparation for 2004 has been performed under the constraints of a self-imposed budget, set between $55 and $60 million. The new-look White Sox will put a greater emphasis on situational baseball under the direction of a new young manager, former Sox shortstop Ozzie Guillen.

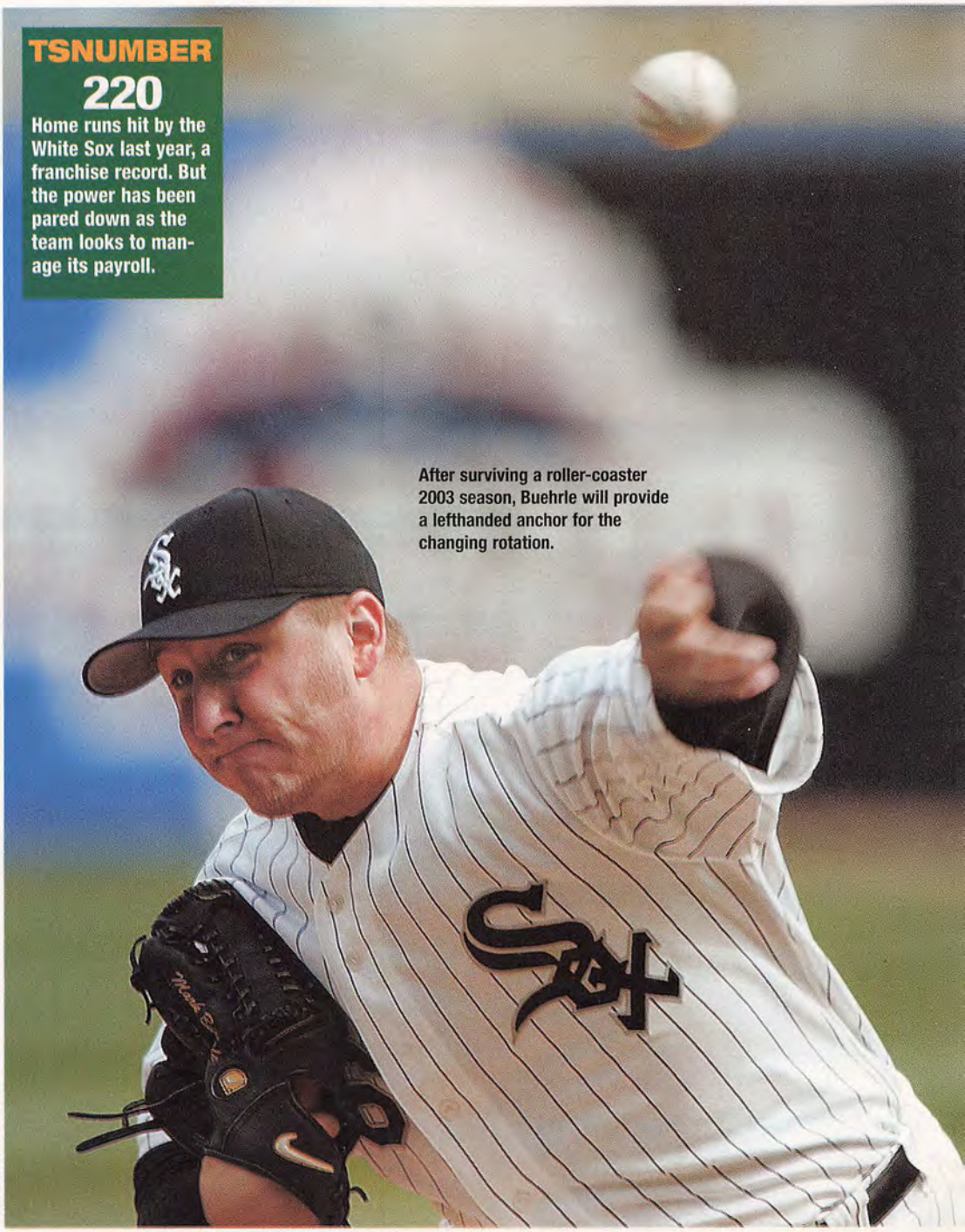
MANAGER From the first press conference to announce his hiring in November, Guillen set the tone for what life will be like with the 40-year-old first-time manager running the show. He alternated between charismatic humor and pointed commentary on the aggressive style of play he will demand. Guillen even challenged former teammate Frank Thomas, explaining that the White Sox's leading offensive producer, power hitter and clubhouse lightning rod will not be exempt from doing the little things to help this team win.

Guillen served as third base coach for the Florida Marlins, where he was credited as being a galvanizing clubhouse force under

TSNUMBER

220

Home runs hit by the White Sox last year, a franchise record. But the power has been pared down as the team looks to manage its payroll.



After surviving a roller-coaster 2003 season, Buehrle will provide a lefthanded anchor for the changing rotation.

DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

managers Jeff Torborg and Jack McKeon. The Marlins won a World Series championship by emphasizing defense and speed, coupled with timely hitting and strong pitching. That is a formula Guillen hopes to imitate.

The former All-Star and defensive wizard will rely heavily on an experienced staff that includes bench coach Joe Nossek, pitching coach Don Cooper and hitting coach Greg Walker. Williams said Guillen only needed two hours of an allotted four-hour interview slot to convince him he was the man for the job. It remains to be seen if the veteran players will respond as quickly to Guillen's over-the-top, energetic style. **GRADE: B**

ROTATION Mark Buehrle and Esteban Loaiza, who are coming off very different seasons, figure to anchor a rotation that has a few holes to fill after ranking as the team's strong suit in 2003.

Loaiza was an afterthought when spring training began last February, but the veteran righthander emerged nine months later as the runner-up to Toronto's Roy Halladay for American League Cy Young honors. Loaiza, 32, finished 21-9 with a 2.90 ERA, led the A.L. in strikeouts and started the All-Star Game. With a new cut fastball and the ability to mix speeds, he will remain a top option. But skeptics will be watching to see if Loaiza, who had never won more than 11 games in any previous season, can sustain that success.

For the first time, the lefthanded Buehrle had to deal with adversity. The 24-year-old lost nine straight games early in the year and stood at 2-10 after 15 starts. But he bounced back with seven consecutive victories and finished 14-14. Buehrle's hits per inning (250 in 230⅓) were up considerably from years past, as was his ERA (4.14). But he knows how to pitch and understands how to work a batter. That, coupled with his ability and confidence, gives the White Sox a chance any time Buehrle starts.

Jon Garland is coming off a disappointing year. When the 24-year-old has his sinker working, he is as good as anyone in the league at inducing ground balls and controlling offenses. But when Garland loses focus and gets pitches up, teams tee off on his less-than-overpowering fastball. The righthander needs to emerge as a bona fide starting force, winning more than the 12 games he has in each of the last two seasons.

After coming over in a trade from Anaheim on July 29, Schoeneweis pitched 20 games out of the bullpen. But he was promised a chance to start and should fit nicely into the rotation. Schoeneweis started at least 25 games and pitched at least 170 innings twice in his four-plus seasons with the Angels.

The fifth starter will come from a group of rookies, including lefthander Neal Cotts and righthanders Felix Diaz, Enemencio Pacheco and Jon Rauch. **GRADE: C**

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. RHP **Esteban Loaiza** again will win 15-20 games. His ability to change speeds and his cool demeanor finally have caught up to his All-Star-caliber stuff.
2. DH/1B **Frank Thomas** will challenge for the A.L. home run title again. Recovered from a torn triceps that slowed him for two seasons, Thomas now focuses on homers instead of average.
3. LHP **Damaso Marte** will become an All-Star. With **Tom Gordon** gone and **Billy Koch** coming off of a bad season, the hard-throwing Marte will have many chances to showcase his overpowering style.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

In terms of catching, they're OK. I think the kid (Miguel) Olivo, I'm not sure he's ever going to be a front-line guy, but he's a good defensive player. There's still some hope with him. ... They have plenty of first basemen, which is part of the problem. ... The guy at short (Jose Valentin) is erratic but getting better. ... The third baseman (Joe Crede), each time I see him he gets a little better. He does have some holes, but there's some upside there. ... Pitching is a question mark. I like (Jon) Garland; he'll continue to get better. (Mark) Buehrle is a very good pitcher. (Esteban) Loaiza is a question mark. They have question marks in the bullpen, which I know they have to address. The guy who has really been an enigma is (Billy) Koch, and I really don't think he's healthy. He's definitely not the pitcher he used to be. They have a couple lefthanders in (Damaso) Marte and (Kelly) Wunsch. Marte could close in a shared role.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Willie Harris, 2B	**4**
Speed to burn; special project for Guillen.	
2. Carlos Lee, LF	**6**
Led A.L. after the break with 59 RBIs.	
3. Frank Thomas, DH	**6**
Focus on power paid 40-plus HR dividends.	
4. Magglio Ordonez, RF	**7**
Perennial contender for batting title.	
5. Paul Konerko, 1B	**5**
Hit .197 in first half but .275 after the break.	
6. Aaron Rowand, CF	**5**
Full strength after 2002 dirt-bike wreck.	
7. Jose Valentin, SS	**5**
Four straight seasons with 25 or more homers.	
8. Joe Crede, 3B	**4**
Showed 25-home run, 80-RBI potential.	
9. Miguel Olivo, C	**4**
Needs steady offense to match throwing arm.	
Starters	
1. Mark Buehrle, LH	**6**
Strong finish bodes well for 2004.	
2. Esteban Loaiza, RH	**7**
New off-speed philosophy could mean 20 wins.	
3. Jon Garland, RH	**5**
24-year-old could be ready to emerge.	
4. Scott Schoeneweis, LH	**4**
Consistent starter gets chance on South Side.	
5. Neal Cotts, LH	**4**
Took a walk on the wild side last year.	
Closer	
Billy Koch, RH	**5**
Speed of fastball dropped; ERA rose (5.77).	
Total	**77**

BULLPEN Losing Tom Gordon and Scott Sullivan to free agency significantly reduces the deepest unit on the roster. Righthander Billy Koch needs to reassert himself as one of baseball's more dominant closers, while Damaso Marte has a chance to become an All-Star setup man and one of the game's dominant lefthanders out of the bullpen.

The velocity on Koch's fastball dropped noticeably last season, as did his saves (from 44 to 11), causing some to believe the talented closer suffered from a hidden injury. There also was thought that his elevated innings total from the year before wore down the hard-throwing righthander. But Koch's desire is not a question. He never hid from his on-field troubles, showing the same steely resolve to his critics as he does when trying to get the final out in the ninth inning. Koch needs to forget about the radar gun, as he did during the final month of 2003, and focus on hitters.

If Koch struggles, Marte would be the closer, a job he never has held on a full-time basis. But the 29-year-old lefthander with the powerful arm excelled while sharing duties with Koch and Gordon last season, ranking fourth among relievers with his 1.58 ERA and fourth among all A.L. pitchers in hits per nine innings (5.65).

Lefthander Kelly Wunsch, whose sidearming style makes him almost unhittable against lefties, will see more work in the setup role. Hard-throwing youngsters Arnaldo Munoz and David Sanders will battle for the lefthanded specialist position.

Cliff Politte, Dan Wright and Jon Adkins take over in middle relief, with special attention paid to the 26-year-old Wright. He entered 2003 as a fixture in the rotation, but a spring training injury to his pitching elbow left him shuttling between the fifth starter's spot and the bullpen. He finished 1-7. Some think Wright eventually could become a closer. **GRADE: B-**

CATCHING There's no debating Miguel Olivo's defensive prowess—he threw out 19 of 53 would-be basestealers to rank third in

the A.L. The 25-year-old Olivo, who also earned kudos from the pitching staff for calling games, caught all but one of Loaiza's 2003 starts. But he needs to improve offensively, especially at making contact against off-speed offerings, to become the complete player the White Sox expect.

Sandy Alomar Jr. returns for a second year as mentor and tutor to the young starter. Alomar came into camp last season in exceptional shape and produced solid offensive numbers. The same can be expected from Alomar, who figures to start a couple of games per week while adding his vast acumen to the clubhouse. **GRADE: C**

White Sox Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.263	.267
Runs	791	788
Hits	1445	1495
Home runs	220	179
Stolen bases	77	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.17	4.52
Complete games	12	8
Saves	36	38
Walks	518	508
Strikeouts	1056	981
Errors	93	105

WINS AND LOSSES

86-76 (2nd in A.L. Central), 51-30 at home, 35-46 on road, 21-15 vs. A.L. East, 42-34 vs. A.L. Central, 13-19 vs. A.L. West, 10-8 vs. N.L., 26-25 vs. LH starters, 60-51 vs. RH starters, 79-65 on grass, 7-11 on turf, 29-21 in daytime, 57-55 at night, 18-22 in one-run games, 8-5 in extra-inning games, 0-0-0 in doubleheaders.

Ozzie Guillen's record: First season as major league manager.

Postseason: none.

Team record past five years: 420-389 (.519, ranks 11th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Cliff Politte (FA/Blue Jays), IF Juan Uribe (trade/Rockies).

Losses: 2B Roberto Alomar (FA/Diamondbacks), RHP Bartolo Colon (FA/Angels), 1B/OF Brian Daubach (FA/Red Sox), OF Carl Everett (FA/Expos), RHP Tom Gordon (FA/Yankees), IF Tony Graffanino (FA/Royals), IF Aaron Miles (trade/Rockies), RHP Scott Sullivan (FA/Royals).

MEDIA

Radio: ESPN-AM (1000)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Chicago
Website: whitesox.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Charlotte (International)
Class AA: Birmingham (Southern)
Class A: Kannapolis (South Atlantic), Winston-Salem (Carolina)
Rookie: Bristol (Appalachian), Great Falls (Pioneer)

U.S. Cellular Field

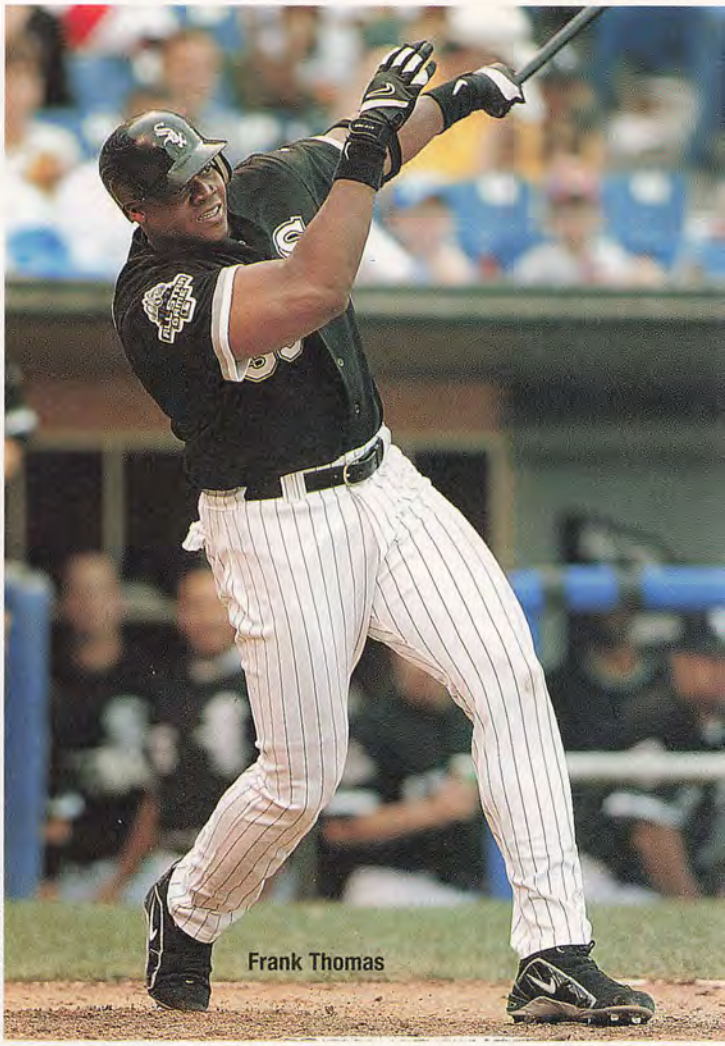
Turf: Grass
Capacity: 42,000
Ticket information 312-674-1000

Spring training: Tucson Electric Park (Tucson, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 520-434-1111

INFIELD The defense may take time to develop, but there is no question that from third to first, the unit will hit.

Typically a designated hitter, Thomas returned to first base for 27 games. But of greater importance was his powerful presence in the middle of the White Sox order. He put a premium on the long ball after the All-Star break, sacrificing his .300 average, and will do well to follow that philosophy again this season.

Paul Konerko was hitting .197 at the midway point last year but bounced back in the second half to show he still has the power and RBI potential that made him a 2002 All-Star. The White Sox will be watching to see if Konerko can put two solid halves together.


DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Frank Thomas

Shortstop Jose Valentin continues to struggle from the right side of the plate. But he is a proven power threat who has improved his defense. And he provides solid leadership.

In his first full season, Joe Crede showed flashes of brilliance and moments of great struggle. There's no doubt Crede is a major league third baseman defensively. And he appears to be headed for a 25-homer, 80-RBI future.

With the departure of Roberto Alomar and Tony Graffanino, Willie Harris and Juan Uribe will get a chance to increase their playing time. Harris will be penciled in as the starting second baseman. But he will need to emphasize his speed at the top of the order and avoid hitting the ball in the air. Uribe, acquired from Colorado for Aaron Miles, brings a strong glove to his utility role. **GRADE: C+**

OUTFIELD With Carlos Lee and Magglio Ordonez on the corners, the White Sox have two of the most complete young players in the game.

Ordonez had a down season, by his standards, failing to extend his streak of hitting 30 home runs with 100 RBIs to five straight years. But the right fielder contended for the batting title down to the final game and shows no signs of falling off his lofty offensive perch.

The breakout year the White Sox were waiting for from Lee arrived last season. And the durable left fielder also played in 158 games. The 31-homer, 113-RBI season was not simply a blip on the radar screen for Lee, who could become an annual Most Valuable Player candidate.

Aaron Rowand's chance to assert himself in center field was all but squelched by a life-threatening dirt bike accident in November 2002. But Rowand, 26, adjusted his hitting stance after being sent to Class AAA Charlotte 60 games into the season and finished the year with a .387 flourish (37-for-97) and .629 slugging percentage for the White Sox.

Joe Borchard, Jeremy Reed and Ross Gload also will compete for time. **GRADE: A-**

Scott Merkin covers the White Sox for MLB.com.

White Sox Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 KC	6	7 KC	8 NYY	9 NYY	10 NYY
11 NYY	12	13 KC	14 KC	15 KC	16 TB	17 TB
18 TB	19	20 NYY	21 NYY	22 NYY	23 TB	24 TB
25 TB	26	27 CLE	28 CLE	29 TOR	30 TOR	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 TOR
2 TOR	3 BAL	4 BAL	5 BAL	6	7 TOR	8 TOR
9 TOR	10	11 BAL	12 BAL	13 BAL	14 MIN	15 MIN
16 MIN	17 CLE	18 CLE	19 CLE	20 MIN	21 MIN	22 MIN
23 MIN	24	25 TEX	26 TEX	27 TEX	28 ANA	29 ANA
30 ANA	31					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 OAK	2 OAK	3	4 SEA	5 SEA
6 SEA	7	8 PHI	9 PHI	10 PHI	11 ATL	12 ATL
13 ATL	14	15 FLA	16 FLA	17 FLA	18 MON	19 MON
20 MON	21 CLE	22 CLE	23 CLE	24 CLE	25 CHC	26 CHC
27 CHC	28	29 MIN	30 MIN			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 MIN	2 CHC	3 CHC
4 CHC	5	6 ANA	7 ANA	8 ANA	9 SEA	10 SEA
11 SEA	12	13 All-Star	14	15 OAK	16 OAK	17 OAK
18 OAK	19 TEX	20 TEX	21 CLE	22 CLE	23 DET	24 DET
25 DET	26 MIN	27 MIN	28 MIN	29 DET	30 DET	31 DET

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 DET	2	3 KC	4 KC	5 KC	6 CLE	7 CLE
8 CLE	9 CLE	10 KC	11 KC	12 KC	13 BOS	14 BOS
15 BOS	16	17 DET	18 DET	19 DET	20 BOS	21 BOS
22 BOS	23 DET	24 DET	25 DET	26 CLE	27 CLE	28 CLE
29 CLE	30	31 OAK				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 OAK	2 OAK	3 SEA	4 SEA
5 SEA	6 TEX	7 TEX	8 TEX	9 TEX	10 ANA	11 ANA
12 ANA	13	14 MIN	15 MIN	16 MIN	17 DET	18 DET
19 DET	20 MIN	21 MIN	22 MIN	23 KC	24 KC	25 KC
26 KC	27 DET	28 DET	29 DET	30 KC		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 KC	2 KC
3 KC	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Ozzie Guillen (13). Coaches: Joey Cora, Joe Nossek (23), Greg Walker (29), Don Cooper (34), Rafael Santana (1), Art Kusnyer (53).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
37	Adkins, Jon	L/R	6-0/200	26	Charlotte	7-8	3.96	26/19	1	122.2	119	65	54	34	59
					Chicago A.L.	0-0	4.82	4/0	0	9.1	8	5	5	7	3
56	Buehrle, Mark	L/L	6-2/200	25	Chicago A.L.	14-14	4.14	35/35	0	230.1	250	124	106	61	119
38	Cotts, Neal	L/L	6-2/200	24	Chicago A.L.	1-1	8.10	4/4	0	13.1	15	12	12	17	10
					Birmingham	9-7	2.16	21/21	0	108.1	67	32	26	56	133
54	Diaz, Felix	R/R	6-1/180	22	Charlotte	5-7	3.97	27/18	0	115.2	122	59	51	33	83
20	Garland, Jon	R/R	6-6/205	24	Chicago A.L.	12-13	4.51	32/32	0	191.2	188	103	96	74	108
32	Ginter, Matt	R/R	6-1/220	26	Chicago A.L.	0-0	13.50	3/0	0	3.1	2	5	5	1	0
					Charlotte	3-5	3.03	49/0	14	68.1	66	27	23	22	52
	Grilli, Jason	R/R	6-4/185	27	Albuquerque	6-2	3.38	12/12	0	66.2	64	30	25	30	38
					Jupiter	4-2	2.53	7/7	0	42.2	38	13	12	6	30
44	Koch, Billy	R/R	6-3/215	29	Charlotte	0-1	4.91	4/0	0	3.2	5	2	2	3	2
					Chicago A.L.	5-5	5.77	55/0	11	53.0	59	36	34	28	42
21	Loaiza, Esteban	R/R	6-3/215	32	Chicago A.L.	21-9	2.90	34/34	0	226.1	196	75	73	56	207
	Majewski, Gary	R/R	6-2/206	24	Charlotte	6-4	3.96	42/1	4	72.2	62	33	32	29	72
	Malone, Corwin	R/L	6-3/200	23	Bristol	0-0	5.14	4/4	0	14.0	17	8	8	3	15
					Kannapolis	0-3	5.11	5/5	0	24.2	27	19	14	10	29
					Birmingham	4-2	5.40	8/8	0	40.0	50	26	24	28	28
43	Marte, Damaso	L/L	6-2/200	29	Chicago A.L.	4-2	1.58	71/0	11	79.2	50	16	14	34	87
	Meaux, Ryan	R/L	5-11/170	25	Winston-Salem	1-3	1.15	32/0	10	55.0	49	14	7	3	43
					Birmingham	1-2	2.13	26/0	2	38.0	39	11	9	3	29
	Munoz, Arnaldo	L/L	5-9/170	21	Charlotte	4-3	4.75	49/0	6	55.0	52	35	29	27	63
	Pacheco, Enem.	R/R	6-1/170	25	Birmingham	12-2	2.56	30/24	0	151.1	131	51	43	51	116
	Politte, Cliff	R/R	5-11/185	30	Toronto	1-5	5.66	54/0	12	49.1	52	32	31	17	40
					Syracuse	0-0	0.00	1/0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	1
51	Rauch, Jon	R/R	6-10/230	25	Arizona Brewers	2-3	4.01	11/3	1	33.2	30	20	15	8	21
					Charlotte	7-1	4.11	24/23	0	124.2	121	60	57	35	94
52	Sanders, David	L/L	6-0/200	24	Chicago A.L.	0-0	6.14	20/0	0	22.0	25	16	15	11	14
					Charlotte	1-1	3.68	19/0	4	22.0	23	9	9	6	25
60	Schoeneweis, S.	L/L	6-0/190	30	Anaheim	1-1	3.96	39/0	0	38.2	37	19	17	10	29
					Chicago A.L.	2-1	4.50	20/0	0	26.0	26	16	13	9	27
	Wing, Ryan	L/L	6-2/170	21	Winston-Salem	9-7	2.98	26/26	0	145.0	116	62	48	67	107
46	Wright, Dan	R/R	6-5/225	26	Charlotte	1-3	4.64	8/7	0	33.0	25	18	17	10	25
					Chicago A.L.	1-7	6.15	20/15	1	86.1	91	63	59	46	47
65	Wunsch, Kelly	L/L	6-5/225	31	Charlotte	0-1	5.40	3/0	0	3.1	6	3	2	0	4
					Chicago A.L.	0-0	2.75	43/0	0	36.0	17	13	11	25	33

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
15	Alomar Jr., Sandy	R/R	6-5/235	37	Charlotte	..267	5	15	2	4	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
					Chicago A.L.	.268	75	194	22	52	12	0	5	26	4	17	0
27	Burke, Jamie	R/R	6-0/195	32	Charlotte	.322	94	323	47	104	13	0	6	50	20	39	1
					Chicago A.L.	.375	6	8	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
8	Olivo, Miguel	R/R	6-0/220	25	Chicago A.L.	.237	114	317	37	75	19	1	6	27	19	80	6
	Rivera, Michael	R/R	6-0/210	27	San Diego	.170	19	53	2	9	1	0	1	2	5	11	0
					Portland	.160	13	50	0	8	1	0	0	2	1	21	0
					Charlotte	.310	68	245	38	76	11	0	12	52	16	50	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
24	Crede, Joe	R/R	6-2/195	25	Chicago A.L.	.261	151	536	68	140	31	2	19	75	32	75	1
	Gload, Ross	L/L	6-0/180	27	Charlotte	.315	133	508	72	160	40	6	18	70	29	60	6
14	Konerko, Paul	R/R	6-2/215	28	Chicago A.L.	.234	137	444	49	104	19	0	18	65	43	50	0
35	Thomas, Frank	R/R	6-5/275	35	Chicago A.L.	.267	153	546	87	146	35	0	42	105	100	115	3
	Uribe, Juan	R/R	5-11/173	24	Visalia	.556	2	9	4	5	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
					Tulsa	.250	5	20	3	5	2	0	1	4	0	2	0
					Colorado	.253	87	316	45	80	19	3	10	33	17	60	7
22	Valentin, Jose	B/R	5-10/185	34	Chicago A.L.	.237	144	503	79	119	26	2	28	74	54	114	8
	Yan, Ruddy	S/R	6-0/165	22	Winston-Salem	.264	130	485	85	128	11	3	2	24	47	73	76

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
25	Borchard, Joe	B/R	6-5/220	25	Chicago A.L.	.184	16	49	5	9	1	0	1	5	5	18	0
					Charlotte	.253	114	435	62	110	20	2	13	53	27	103	2
12	Harris, Willie	L/R	5-9/175	25	Charlotte	.380	28	100	22	38	6	1	6	13	17	20	9
					Chicago A.L.	.204	79	137	19	28	3	1	0	5	10	28	12
45	Lee, Carlos	R/R	6-2/235	27	Chicago A.L.	.291	158	623	100	181	35	1	31	113	37	91	18
30	Ordonez, Magglio	R/R	6-0/210	30	Chicago A.L.	.317	160	606	95	192	46	3	29	99	57	73	9
33	Rowand, Aaron	R/R	6-1/210	26	Charlotte	.242	32	120	15	29	9	0	3	13	11	12	0
					Chicago A.L.	.287	93	157	22	45	8	0	6	24	7	21	0

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Kris Honel, RHP Ryan Kohlmeier, LHP Josh Stewart, C Ryan Hankins, IF Mike Bell, IF Kelly Dransfeldt, OF Jeremy Reed.

CLEVELAND INDIANS

PROJECTED A.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 4TH

By Justice B. Hill/MLB.com

Officially, this is Year 2 of the Indians' rebuilding program, but they might be closer to contending in the A.L. Central than many—both inside and outside of Cleveland—think.

Last season, manager Eric Wedge did a serviceable job of weaving such youngsters as Jody Gerut, Ryan Ludwick, Alex Escobar, Ben Broussard, Travis Hafner and Coco Crisp into the lineup. And along the way, the organization learned that some of its young talent was ready for the big leagues, some was not.

Wedge's firm approach made one thing perfectly clear: The Indians, despite being plagued by inconsistency, can be counted on to play hard and put out maximum effort every day. With more experience, they should learn how to better execute with a game on the line, which should eventually translate into a nice jump in the standings.

The team played its share of tight games last season, and the young players should benefit. Once they learn how to win, things will look good for the organization, which is deep in talent, perhaps as deep collectively as any other in baseball.

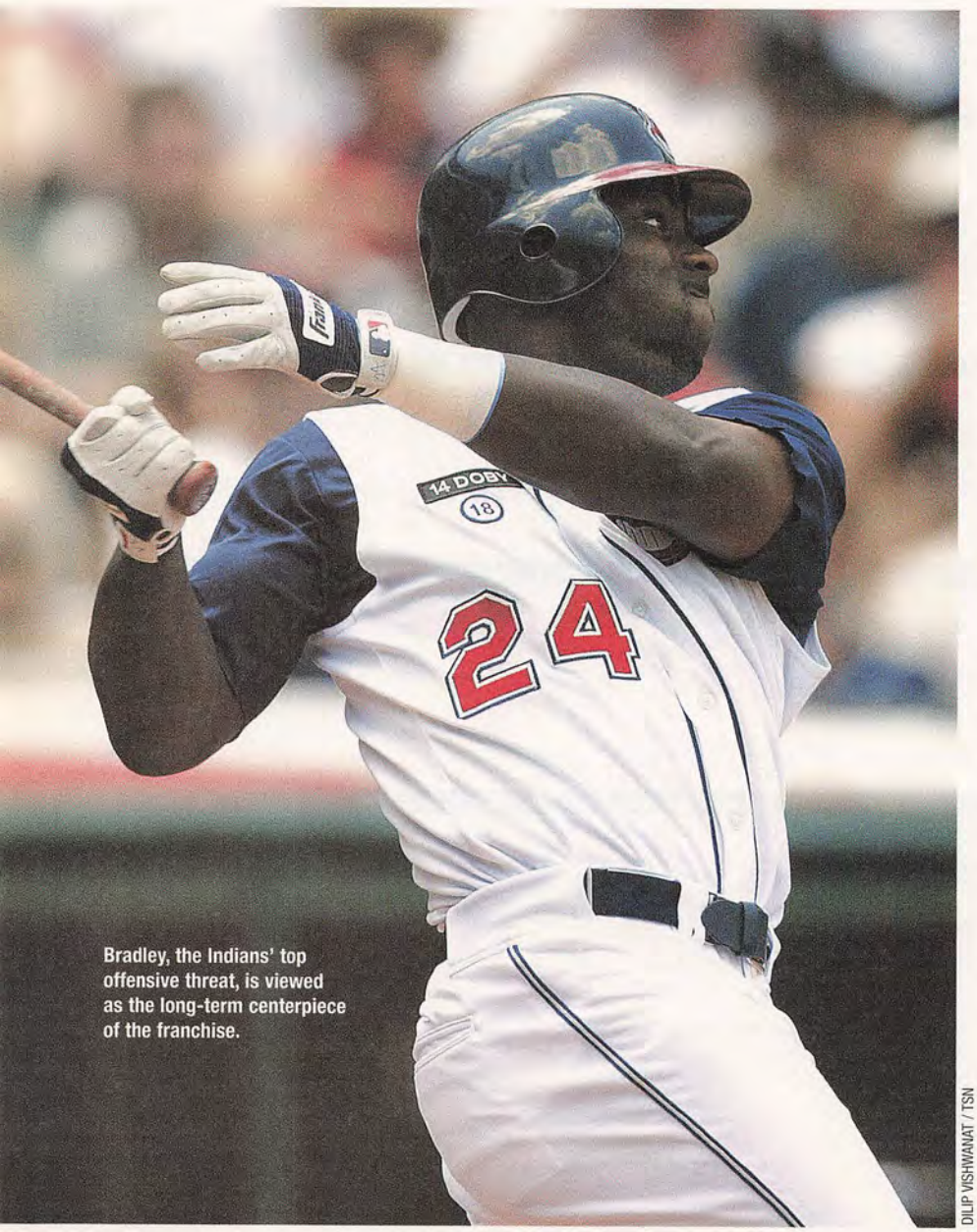
Still, it will take time. Ludwick, Escobar and Gerut have great offensive upsides, but they still are learning. Milton Bradley, who is coming off a breakout performance, needs to show he can stay healthy. Also, it would be good if Bradley would take on a leadership role.

Even though veteran free agents can be had for a more reasonable dollar amount than in recent years, the Indians plan to wait things out and let the 2004 season unfold before rushing to spend on players they might be able to produce on their own.

They know they can afford a few misses if they hit on enough young players during the rebuilding. But somewhere along the way, the team likely will need to go out and get a veteran presence in the clubhouse, an experienced starter and a reliable run producer before it can be taken seriously as a postseason contender.

TSNUMBER 2

The low grand slams total points to the club's 2003 lack of run production in key spots. Inexperienced hitters were much of the problem.



Bradley, the Indians' top offensive threat, is viewed as the long-term centerpiece of the franchise.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

MANAGER Wedge proved he had the drive, motivational skills and know-how to get the Indians to play the game right on most nights. When they didn't, Wedge offered no excuses for their sloppy play. Despite its youth, Wedge never wavered in his expectations. He managed as if he expected to win every game. He got his players to compete, even as the losses mounted. Wedge learned a lot about his players and himself in his first year as a big-league manager. Those lessons should translate into more wins this season.

Despite his reputation for being high strung, Wedge, who turns 36 in January, was able to keep his emotions in check—for the most part. He showed only glimpses of his super-heated intensity, and that helped keep his team at an even keel.

Just like his players are growing into their roles, Wedge is adapting to being a major league manager. At the end of last season, he had silenced doubts about whether he was a good fit for the job. **GRADE: B**

ROTATION Unlike the last few years, the Indians do not have to search in spring

training for someone to man the top of their rotation. In 23-year-old C.C. Sabathia, they have their ace. At times dominant, Sabathia led the Tribe in wins (13), starts (30), innings pitched (197⅔) and strikeouts (141). After posting ERAs of 4.39 and 4.37 in his first two major league seasons, Sabathia lowered that mark to 3.60. The Indians consider the hard-throwing lefthander an untouchable talent.

Big righthander Jason Davis is penciled in for another rotation spot. He won eight games as a rookie, but he was prone to giving up the long ball.

Other starting candidates are Cliff Lee, Jake Westbrook, Chad Durbin, Jason Bere, Jason Stanford and Jeremy Guthrie. Except for Bere, none has an extensive major league portfolio, so it is uncertain what Wedge will get from this collection of arms.

The competition should benefit everybody, and it will be even stiffer than expected if youngsters like righthander Francisco Cruceta and lefthander Cliff Bartosh make earlier-than-expected runs at rotation slots. It is also likely that a veteran will be added late in the free-agency process, with the intention of helping to stabilize a young rotation. **GRADE: C**

BULLPEN In a bullpen filled with questions, the biggest is this: Who is the closer? The best bet is veteran Bob Wickman, who is healthy after missing the 2003 season with arm problems. But the bullpen also features David Riske, who averaged more than a strikeout per inning last season, and former Colorado closer Jose Jimenez. Both provide insurance in case Wickman fails to hold up physically.

The Indians are hoping veteran Mark Wohlers, who also missed last season with arm problems, will return to form. If not, newcomer Scott Stewart, a lefthander, could join the Riske/Jimenez setup team while also performing situational duties. Jack Cressend will be back in long relief. He was used carefully last season after having shoulder surgery in 2002, but the Indians expect him to be more dependable and durable.

Other candidates for the bullpen include Bobby Howry, Dave Lee, Rafael Betancourt, Kazuhito Tadano, Fernando Cabrera and possibly Westbrook. Veteran lefthander Terry Mulholland also could return to Cleveland if he does not find a higher bidder in free agency. **GRADE: C**

CATCHING Josh Bard and Victor Martinez will fight it out for the starting spot, and veteran Tim Laker probably will be the backup.

What is intriguing about the Bard-Martinez battle is that each player has a decided edge in one category. Bard is the defensive specialist; Martinez could develop into a hitting machine. The Indians would like to see Martinez's defense improve because that would enable them to get his bat in the lineup. It is not that Bard cannot hit. It is that Martinez reminds some observers of a young Mike Piazza. That suggests offensive tools not often seen in catchers. But Martinez still is learning to play defense. So if pitching and solid defense are what this team will be built around, Bard could win the job because his arm is stronger and his ability to call a game more advanced. **GRADE: B-**

INFIELD The infield is set. Omar Vizquel and his slick glove will return to play shortstop. Free-agent signee Ron Belliard will handle second base duties. Casey Blake, who displayed decent power last season, will start at third. And Broussard and Hafner, who both have power potential, will share first base—unless one steps up to win the job outright.

Vizquel, who remains in Cleveland only because he failed to pass a physical to complete a trade to Seattle for shortstop Carlos Guillen, will have to show that he can remain healthy after missing much of the 2003 season with leg and knee injuries. If he can't, look for veteran Ricky Gutierrez to step in—assuming he can recover from the neck and back surgery that plagued him through most of 2003.

Belliard brings experience to the middle of Cleveland's infield. He batted .277 with eight home runs last season for Colorado and the Indians are hoping he can hold down the job until 22-year-old Brandon Phillips is ready. Phillips, who entered last season as the Indians' starting second baseman but struggled at the plate, will have to show a lot in spring training to keep from starting the 2004 season at Class AAA Buffalo.

Wedge would like to see either Broussard or Hafner step up because both are lefthanded hitters and do not fit into a natural platoon. Broussard belted 16 home runs in 116 games last season while Hafner hit 14 in 91 games. The 30-year-old Blake was solid last season when he hit 17 homers and drove in 67 runs.

Another infield option is John McDonald,

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A .325 season for CF **Milton Bradley**. Bradley, limited to 101 games in 2003, should build on his .321 average now that his back is OK. It helps that the Indians have put productive bats behind him.
2. A 100-RBI season for RF **Jody Gerut**. The 2003 Sporting News A.L. Rookie Player of the Year is a smart hitter; he will avoid any sophomore jinx and maintain his high level of production.
3. A 20-win season for LHP **C.C. Sabathia**. The 23-year-old has showed top-of-the-rotation stuff, and he is committed to being in better shape. He should benefit from a stronger offense and bullpen.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

Their strength is they have a lot of prospects, but at this point, they're just prospects. But they have more of 'em than any team I've seen, and I will give the Indians credit because they were ahead of the curve. They started dumping their high-priced guys before anybody else, and they got some pretty good guys in return. Now, if you ask me what their weakness is, their weakness is their inexperience and they're still prospects. ... I think they have a good core of position players, but I don't put a whole lot of weight on prospects and projections. I believe when you show it at the major league level, that's the time to get excited about it. ... The Indians have potential. They are loaded everywhere, but they're still only prospects. Now, they have to sort out who the guys are who can help them and then move the other guys, but they've got everything—pitching, catching (notably Victor Martinez), guys that can run.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Coco Crisp, LF	**4**
Has plenty of speed; needs to get on base more.	
2. Casey Blake, 3B	**5**
Has talent, but at 30, how much better can he get?	
3. Matt Lawton, DH	**5**
Needs to stay healthy and maintain focus.	
4. Milton Bradley, CF	**6**
Had a breakthrough season; health an issue.	
5. Jody Gerut, RF	**5**
Has all the tools and plenty of confidence	
6. Travis Hafner, 1B	**4**
Good bat, but needs to stay healthy.	
7. Ron Belliard, 2B	**4**
Newcomer gives team a veteran middle infield.	
8. Victor Martinez, C	**4**
Offense is big-league, defense is suspect.	
9. Omar Vizquel, SS	**5**
Does he still have his Gold Glove skills?	
Starters	
1. C.C. Sabathia, LH	**6**
Proved he can anchor the rotation.	
2. Jason Davis, RH	**4**
Held up well in rookie season.	
3. Cliff Lee, LH	**5**
Heady pitcher with power stuff.	
4. Jason Bere, RH	**3**
Veteran could help a lot if healthy.	
5. Jason Stanford, LH	**2**
Jamie Moyer-like stuff, but short on experience.	
Closer	
Bob Wickman, RH	**5**
Mentally tough, but his arm is a question mark.	
Total	**67**

a 29-year-old veteran whose glove is much stronger than his bat. McDonald filled in capably last season at second base, shortstop and third. **GRADE: C**

OUTFIELD The outfield is loaded with young players who can roam from foul pole to foul pole and who have already shown the ability to hit big-league pitching.

Bradley is the centerpiece, a speedy fly chaser and the top potential run producer in the lineup. The switch-hitting Bradley, 25, is coming off a season in which he batted .321 but was limited to 101 games because of injuries. He showed signs, however, of becoming a dominating presence, both offensively and defensively, and the Indians envision him as the franchise star for years to come.

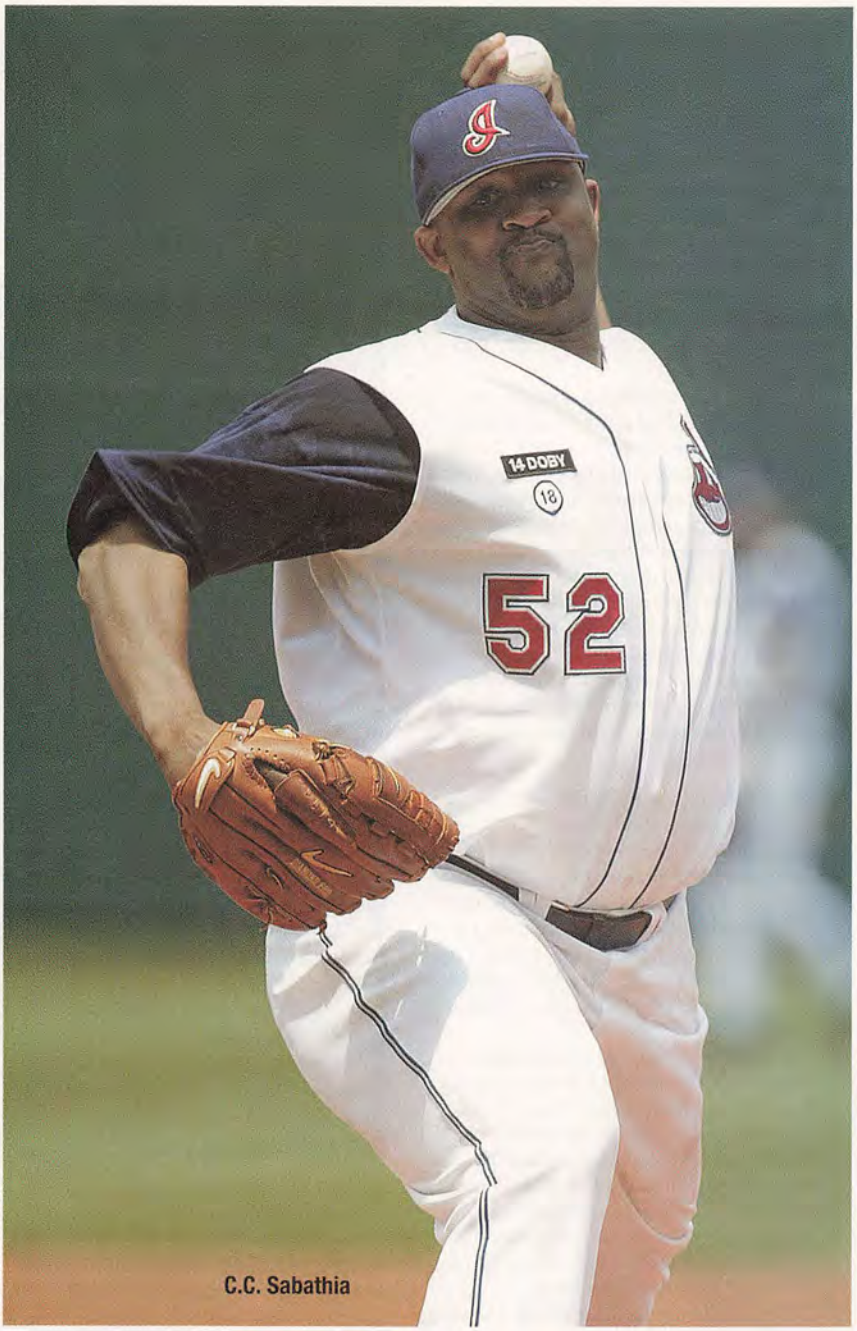
Gerut will start in right field and he, too, has an enormous upside. As a 25-year-old rookie, he batted .279 with 22 homers and 75 RBIs. Team officials look for the talented lefthanded hitter to join Bradley as a key run producer in the middle of the order.

Crisp, Ludwick and Escobar probably will compete for the left field job. And all seem ready to make a positive impact at the major league level. Their presence makes this the deepest position for Wedge—and also his biggest challenge. He will have to juggle his outfield talent, getting everybody at-bats to make sure he does not impede the progress of some good, young players.

Call this a logjam, but also call this one of the cornerstones of the Indians' rebuilding process. And keep in mind that the best prospect in the organization is another outfielder, Grady Sizemore. All eyes will be on this future star in the spring.

It also is possible one or more of the youngsters could challenge veteran outfielder Matt Lawton for designated hitter duties. Lawton would seem the likely No. 3 hitter now that injury-prone DH Ellis Burks is gone. **GRADE: B**

Justice B. Hill covers the Indians for MLB.com.



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

C.C. Sabathia

Indians Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.254	.267
Runs	699	788
Hits	1413	1495
Home runs	158	179
Stolen bases	86	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.21	4.52
Complete games	5	8
Saves	34	38
Walks	501	508
Strikeouts	943	981
Errors	126	105

WINS AND LOSSES

68-94 (4th in A.L. Central), 38-43 at home, 30-51 on road, 14-18 vs. A.L. East, 35-41 vs. A.L. Central, 13-23 vs. A.L. West, 6-12 vs. N.L., 19-31 vs. LH starters, 49-63 vs. RH starters, 58-88 on grass, 10-6 on turf, 21-31 in daytime, 47-63 at night, 15-25 in one-run games, 7-11 in extra-inning games, 1-0-0 in doubleheaders.
Eric Wedge's record: 68-94, 1 season with Indians.
Postseason: none.
Team record past five years: 420-390 (.519, ranks 12th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: 2B Ronnie Belliard (FA/Rockies), RHP Jeff D'Amico (FA/Pirates), RHP Luther Hackman (FA/Padres), LHP Scott Stewart (trade/Expos).
Losses: RHP Danys Baez (FA/Devil Rays), OF Ellis Burks (FA), RHP Dave Elder (FA), LHP Terry Mulholland (FA), LHP Carl Sadler (FA), RHP Jose Santiago (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: WTAM-AM (1100)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net Ohio
Website: indians.mlb.com

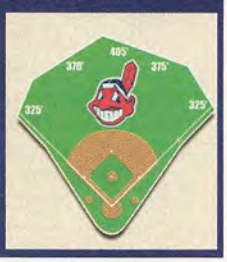
MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Buffalo (International)
Class AA: Akron (Eastern)
Class A: Kinston (Carolina), Lake County (South Atlantic), Mahoning Valley (New York-Pennsylvania)
Rookie: Burlington (Appalachian)

Jacobs Field

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 43,368
Ticket information: 216-420-4200

Spring training: Chain Of Lakes Park (Winter Haven, Fla.)
Ticket information: 863-293-3900



Indians Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 MIN	6 MIN	7 MIN	8 KC	9 KC	10 KC
11 KC	12 MIN	13	14 MIN	15 MIN	16 DET	17 DET
18 DET	19 DET	20 KC	21 KC	22 KC	23 DET	24 DET
25 DET	26	27 CHW	28 CHW	29	30 BAL	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 BAL
2 BAL	3 BOS	4 BOS	5 BOS	6 BOS	7 BAL	8 BAL
9 BAL	10 BOS	11 BOS	12 BOS	13	14 TB	15 TB
16 TB	17 CHW	18 CHW	19 CHW	20	21 TB	22 TB
23 TB	24	25 SEA	26 SEA	27 SEA	28 OAK	29 OAK
30 OAK	31					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 TEX	2 TEX	3 ANA	4 ANA	5 ANA
6 ANA	7	8 FLA	9 FLA	10 FLA	11 CIN	12 CIN
13 CIN	14	15 NYM	16 NYM	17 NYM	18 ATL	19 ATL
20 ATL	21 CHW	22 CHW	23 CHW	24 CHW	25 COL	26 COL
27 COL	28	29 DET	30 DET			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 DET	2 CIN	3 CIN
4 CIN	5 TEX	6 TEX	7 TEX	8 TEX	9 OAK	10 OAK
11 OAK	12	13 All-Star	14	15 SEA	16 SEA	17 SEA
18 SEA	19 ANA	20 ANA	21 CHW	22 CHW	23 KC	24 KC
25 KC	26 DET	27 DET	28 DET	29	30 KC	31 KC

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 KC	2 TOR	3 TOR	4 TOR	5 TOR	6 CHW	7 CHW
8 CHW	9 CHW	10 TOR	11 TOR	12 TOR	13 MIN	14 MIN
15 MIN	16 TEX	17 TEX	18 TEX	19	20 MIN	21 MIN
22 MIN	23 NYY	24 NYY	25 NYY	26 CHW	27 CHW	28 CHW
29 CHW	30	31 NYY				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 NYY	2 NYY	3 ANA	4 ANA
5 ANA	6 SEA	7	8 SEA	9	10 OAK	11 OAK
12 OAK	13	14 DET	15 DET	16 DET	17 KC	18 KC
19 KC	20 DET	21 DET	22 DET	23 MIN	24 MIN	25 MIN
26 MIN	27 KC	28 KC	29 KC	30		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 MIN	2 MIN
3 MIN	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Eric Wedge (22). Coaches: Buddy Bell (6), Jeff Datz (29), Luis Isaac (4), Eddie Murray (33), Joel Skinner (35), Carl Willis (57).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	Bartosh, Cliff	L/L	6-2/175	24	Portland	2-5	4.29	64/0	10	71.1	67	36	34	22	51
63	Betancourt, Rafael	R/R	6-2/176	28	Akron	0-0	1.39	31/0	16	45.1	33	10	7	13	75
					Buffalo	0-0	4.05	4/0	1	6.2	6	3	3	2	6
					Cleveland	2-2	2.13	33/0	1	38.0	27	11	9	13	36
	Cabrera, Fernando	R/R	6-4/170	22	Akron	9-4	2.97	36/15	5	109.0	96	41	36	40	115
27	Cressend, Jack	R/R	6-1/195	28	Kinston	0-1	12.46	2/0	0	4.1	9	6	6	0	4
					Akron	2-0	0.00	8/0	1	16.0	15	4	0	2	10
					Buffalo	1-0	1.23	8/0	0	14.2	7	2	2	6	12
					Cleveland	2-1	2.51	33/0	0	43.0	40	12	12	9	28
	Cruceta, Francisco	R/R	6-2/180	22	Akron	13-9	3.09	27/25	0	163.1	141	70	56	66	134
50	Davis, Jason	R/R	6-6/210	23	Cleveland	8-11	4.68	27/27	0	165.1	172	101	86	47	85
49	Durbin, Chad	R/R	6-2/200	26	Mahoning Valley	1-1	2.25	2/2	0	12.0	9	4	3	3	8
					Akron	2-0	1.50	3/3	0	12.0	7	2	2	1	11
					Buffalo	3-6	4.60	10/10	0	58.2	51	30	30	16	64
					Cleveland	0-1	7.27	3/1	0	8.2	18	12	7	3	8
	Gomez, Mariano	L/L	6-6/170	21	Kinston	6-4	3.67	18/18	0	100.2	91	49	41	38	69
	Guthrie, Jeremy	S/R	6-1/200	24	Akron	6-2	1.44	10/9	0	62.2	44	11	10	14	35
					Buffalo	4-9	6.52	18/18	0	96.2	129	75	70	30	62
	Jimenez, Jose	R/R	6-3/230	30	Colorado	2-10	5.22	63/7	20	101.2	137	62	59	32	45
34	Lee, Cliff	L/L	6-3/190	25	Kinston	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	4.1	0	1	0	3	4
					Akron	1-0	1.50	2/2	0	12.0	7	2	2	4	13
					Buffalo	6-1	3.27	11/11	0	63.1	62	24	23	31	61
					Cleveland	3-3	3.61	9/9	0	52.1	41	28	21	20	44
54	Riske, David	R/R	6-2/190	27	Cleveland	2-2	2.29	68/0	8	74.2	52	21	19	20	82
52	Sabathia, C.C.	L/L	6-7/290	23	Cleveland	13-9	3.60	30/30	0	197.2	190	85	79	66	141
61	Stanford, Jason	L/L	6-2/200	27	Buffalo	10-4	3.43	20/20	0	126.0	124	57	48	25	108
					Cleveland	1-3	3.60	13/8	0	50.0	48	20	20	16	30
	Stewart, Scott	R/L	6-2/225	28	Brevard County	0-0	0.00	2/2	0	3.2	1	0	0	1	4
					Montreal	3-1	3.98	51/0	0	43.0	52	22	19	13	29
30	Tallet, Brian	L/L	6-7/208	26	Cleveland	0-2	4.74	5/3	0	19.0	23	14	10	8	9
					Buffalo	4-4	5.14	15/15	0	84.0	89	50	48	34	67
40	Traber, Billy	L/L	6-5/205	24	Cleveland	6-9	5.24	33/18	0	111.2	132	67	65	40	88
37	Westbrook, Jake	R/R	6-3/185	26	Buffalo	1-0	0.00	2/2	0	10.0	0	0	0	4	7
					Cleveland	7-10	4.33	34/22	0	133.0	142	70	64	56	58
26	Wickman, Bob	R/R	6-1/240	35	Akron	0-0	16.20	2/2	0	1.2	3	3	3	1	2
					Lake County	0-0	0.00	2/2	0	2.0	1	0	0	0	4

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
44	Bard, Josh	B/R	6-3/215	26	Buffalo	.330	35	115	14	38	7	0	5	21	14	17	1
					Cleveland	.244	91	303	25	74	13	1	8	36	22	53	0
15	Laker, Tim	R/R	6-3/225	34	Cleveland	.241	52	162	17	39	11	0	3	21	9	38	2
20	Martinez, Victor	B/R	6-2/190	25	Buffalo	.328	73	274	42	90	19	0	7	45	26	32	3
					Akron	.333	3	12	1	4	2	0	0	2	0	1	0
					Cleveland	.289	49	159	15	46	4	0	1	16	13	21	1

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Belliard, Ronnie	R/R	5-8/197	28	Colo. Springs	.263	6	19	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
					Colorado	.277	116	447	73	124	31	2	8	50	49	71	7
1	Blake, Casey	R/R	6-2/210	30	Cleveland	.257	152	557	80	143	35	0	17	67	38	109	7
28	Broussard, Ben	L/L	6-2/220	27	Buffalo	.250	32	120	17	30	2	1	3	15	9	29	3
					Cleveland	.249	116	386	53	96	21	3	16	55	32	75	5
12	Gutierrez, Ricky	R/R	6-1/190	33	Buffalo	.292	16	65	8	19	2	1	0	5	4	5	4
					Cleveland	.260	16	50	2	13	3	0	0	3	3	5	0
32	Hafner, Travis	L/R	6-3/240	26	Buffalo	.270	29	100	15	27	4	0	2	10	25	26	2
					Cleveland	.254	91	291	35	74	19	3	14	40	22	81	2
8	McDonald, John	R/R	5-11/175	29	Mahoning Valley	.000	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
					Lake County	.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
					Cleveland	.215	82	214	21	46	9	1	1	14	11	31	3
	Ochoa, Ivan	R/R	5-10/140	21	Kinston	.253	82	296	42	75	12	3	0	23	31	67	28
	Peralta, Jhonny	R/R	6-1/180	21	Buffalo	.257	63	237	25	61	12	1	1	21	15	45	1
					Cleveland	.227	77	242	24	55	10	1	4	21	20	65	1
7	Phillips, Brandon	R/R	5-11/185	22	Buffalo	.175	43	154	14	27	7	0	3	13	12	22	7
					Cleveland	.208	112	370	36	77	18	1	6	33	14	77	4
	Smith, Corey	R/R	6-1/205	21	Akron	.271	127	473	51	128	27	3	9	64	50	99	7
13	Vizquel, Omar	B/R	5-9/175	36	Lake County	.071	4	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
					Cleveland	.244	64	250	43	61	13	2	2	19	29	20	8

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
24	Bradley, Milton	B/R	6-0/190	25	Cleveland	.321	101	377	61	121	34	2	10	56	64	73	17
10	Crisp, Coco	B/R	6-0/185	24	Buffalo	.360	56	225	42	81	19	6	1	24	26	24	20
					Cleveland	.266	99	414	55	110	15	6	3	27	23	51	15
6	Escobar, Alex	R/R	6-1/190	25	Buffalo	.251	118	439	63	110	21	2	24	78	24	133	8
					Cleveland	.273	28	99	16	27	2	0	5	14	7	33	1
9	Gerut, Jody	L/L	6-0/190	26	Buffalo	.277	17	65	13	18	5	0	5	19	11	11	4
					Cleveland	.279	127	480	66	134	33	2	22	75	35	70	4
11	Lawton, Matt	L/R	5-10/195	32	Akron	.053	5	19	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	6	0
					Cleveland	.249	99	374	57	93	19	0	15	53	47	47	10
38	Ludwick, Ryan	R/L	6-3/203	25	Oklahoma	.303	81	317	51	96	24	3	17	63	33	71	1
					Texas	.154	8	26	3	4	1	0	0	0	4	9	0
					Cleveland	.265	39	136	14	36	7	1	7	26	8	39	2
	Sizemore, Grady	L/L	6-2/200	21	Akron	.304	128	496	96	151	26	11	13	78	46	73	10

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Jason Bere, RHP Giovanni Carrara, RHP Jeff D'Amico, RHP Luther Hackman, RHP Bob Howry, RHP Dave Lee, LHP Mike Porzio, LHP Carl Sadler, RHP Mark Wohlers, LHP TimYoung, IF Chris Clapinski, IF Kevin Orie, IF-OF Adam Piatt, OF Ernie Young.

DETROIT

PROJECTED A.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 5TH

TIGERS

By Jason Beck/MLB.com

Twenty years after winning MVP honors in Detroit's last World Series, Alan Trammell is seeing how life is on the other side of the fence.

A 2003 season that began as an evaluation of prospects disintegrated into a quest to avoid infamy. The Tigers needed a run of five wins over their final six games to avoid the 1962 Mets' modern standard of 120 losses, although Detroit's 119 defeats set an American League record. The evaluation: Some youngsters had the tools to make it, but not the experience or training. Others simply were not good enough.

Year 2 of the retooling focuses on the weeding-out process. The team has added several veteran free agents, but its short- and long-term success will really depend on how last year's rookies have developed. Detroit's pitching staff was hampered by minuscule run support and inexperience. But pitching improvement will mean little if the Dmitri Young-led offense does not score more runs. Likewise, a bullpen quietly stocking hard-throwing arms has little chance to prove itself without leads to protect.

TSNUMBER

30

Quality starts from Mike Maroth, Nate Cornejo and Jeremy Bonderman in which they received a loss or no decision. Most occurred early in '03.

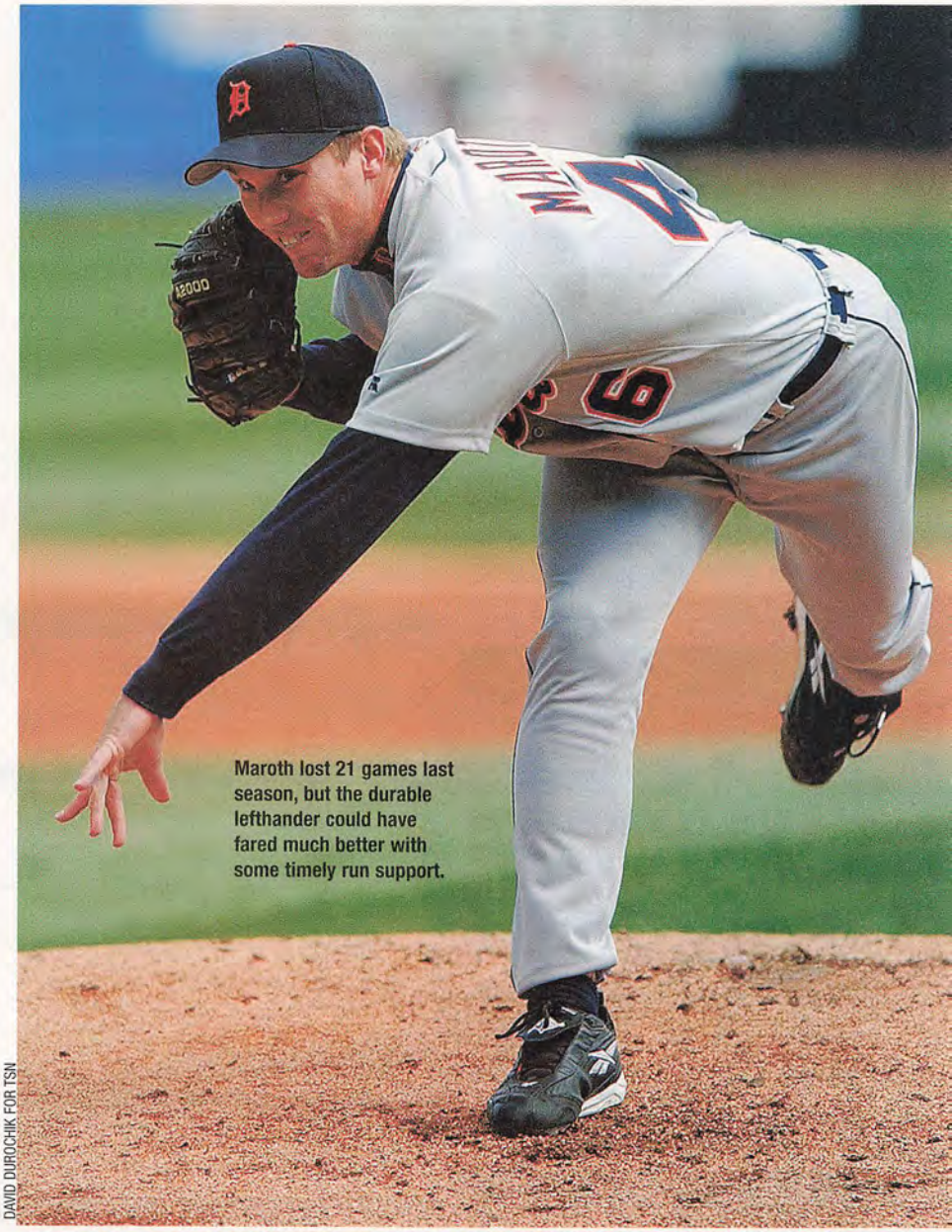
The Tigers enter 2004 with the experience and knowledge of what Trammell expects. And everybody knows one thing for sure: There is nowhere to go but up.

MANAGER Trammell warned early that he would be learning on the job alongside his players, but Detroit's atrocious start left him few chances to manage close games or scoring situations. By midseason, he was torn between two desires—player development and winning.

In a season that would have sent most veteran managers into meltdown, Trammell never wavered. His poise through the stress—including his mother's death in September—was a guiding force that saved some players' sanity. It also established his style as a quiet disciplinarian who also can be a player's manager. He made it clear by season's end that the kids had to show improvement to keep their jobs.

Although many expected a Sparky Anderson clone, Trammell's aggressive running game and emphasis on defense are similar to another former boss—Bruce Bochy. Pitching coach Bob Cluck handled the young arms early in the season, but as Trammell became familiar with the nuances of managing a pitching staff, he took over in-game decisions with Cluck's consultation.

The Tigers' future is in Trammell's hands. His playing history combines with his work ethic to give him a lot of influence over this organization. And until he has the players to contend, his attitude and aggressiveness are his best tools for a turnaround. **GRADE: C**



Maroth lost 21 games last season, but the durable lefthander could have fared much better with some timely run support.

DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

ROTATION The young staff was inexperienced and unprepared for what it was about to face. The ability to handle an overwhelming workload and miserable run support spoke as much to the pitchers' surprising talent and temperament as Cluck's fatherly care. Entering a new season, Mike Maroth, Jeremy Bonderman and Nate Cornejo have a much better idea what to expect and how to approach it.

The publicity Maroth generated as baseball's first 20-game loser since 1980 was misleading. He could have been close to .500

with better run support. The 6-foot lefthander is at his best when he spots the corners, a strategy his losing streak took away from him.

The best thing the Tigers did in the offseason was sign former Baltimore pitcher Jason Johnson and slot Maroth down in the rotation. The 30-year-old righthander, who was 10-10 last season for the Orioles, provides stability at the top of the rotation and takes a lot of pressure off Maroth and Bonderman—the projected future ace.

Bonderman is a coming attraction. His loss total (19) nearly matched his age (20) last season, but he matured quickly, learning from each start while disregarding the results. Despite a mid-90s fastball, Bonderman understands now he cannot rely on overpowering hitters and needs a changeup to succeed. Watch for big improvement.

The No. 4 spot should belong to Cornejo, a 24-year-old righthander who seemed to be catching on as last season progressed. Tendinitis in spring training forced him to pitch to location without his usual velocity. But that brought back the sink in his fastball, which is why his ERA steadily improved. Cluck would like to see a return of velocity and more aggressiveness inside, but confidence is the key to Cornejo's success.

The final spot could invite a rotating competition, although Nate Robertson showed enough down the stretch to be a front-runner. He is a lefthander with good movement. Gary Knotts, like Robertson a former Marlin, also could start if he shows more consistency. Both need to develop quickly before lefthanded knuckle-curve artist Rob Henkel and former top pick Kenny Baugh are ready. **GRADE: C+**

BULLPEN Fernando Rodney enters 2004 with the closer job Franklyn German and Matt Anderson once considered theirs.

For nearly two years, Rodney's problem has been the same: He loses confidence in his changeup, then watches hitters pound his fastball. When called up from the minors last August, Rodney decided to trust all his pitches and the result was positive. Now the Tigers must figure out what to do with their other would-be closers.

Anderson, who has battled injuries since recording 22 saves for the Tigers in 2001, spent four months in Toledo last season, working on a second pitch to complement his fading fastball. He showed reasonable progress in a September call-up, but now he must earn Trammell's trust to take appearances from oft-injured setup man Danny Patterson. German's control problems could land him back in the minors.

Patterson heads up a surprisingly strong group of veteran middle relievers. In Al Levine, the Tigers added a savvy righthander who can work consecutive days during stretches when the starters come up short. Lefthanded sidearmer Jamie Walker does surrender some ill-timed long balls, but he is steady enough to handle the role of late-inning specialist. **GRADE: C+**

CATCHING Brandon Inge has the arm and game-calling skills to become a big-league regular. But only time will tell if his offensive skills catch up. The 26-year-old righthanded hitter batted only .203 last season, although a simplified mental outlook—just aiming up the middle—paid off down the stretch. The Tigers want to give him every chance to succeed.

That is one reason why they signed veteran backup Mike DiFelice, who will provide guidance for the youngster while serving in a platoon or offering quality backup.

Rule 5 draft selection Chris Shelton's catching skills are overshadowed by his versatility and offensive punch. On a team that needs all the bats it can find, the former Pirates prospect provides a late-inning pinch-hit option. **GRADE: D**

INFIELD What was a well-regarded group of youngsters entering last year fell short of expectations.

Eric Munson made the transition from first to third base in his first full season and kept his head above water. His quick hands and feet propelled his 6-3, 225-pound frame with surprising efficiency. His throwing was erratic, but team officials think that will improve. Offensively, Munson was streaky, pulled the ball too much and struggled to keep his average up. But his lefthanded swing produced 18 home runs and enough against lefties to keep him in the lineup.

First baseman Carlos Pena had a season to forget. The Tigers still are committed to him, but he needs a breakout effort to become the middle-of-the-order hitter Trammell envisions. He has power potential and discipline, but he needs to recognize pitches better. His fielding is a work in progress.

The Tigers paid handsomely for second baseman Fernando Vina to provide stability, not only with his Gold Glove defense, but a steady bat. Vina won't walk often, but he

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A .300/30/100 season for DH/OF **Dmitri Young**. He came close last year with little or no support. At 30, he is at his prime age for power.
2. About 200 innings from soon-to-be ace **Jeremy Bonderman**. Coaches will not be as restrictive on his innings and pitch counts as he continues learning how to intelligently attack hitters.
3. A third straight 100-loss season. While weeding out under-performing prospects and adding contributing veterans, the Tigers have nowhere to go but up.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

Most of their regular players are utility players on other teams. They have no strengths and a whole lot of weaknesses. They have a couple of pitchers who have a chance. (Mike) Maroth is at best a fourth starter, but because of their weak rotation was thrust into an ace role and the position of having to face No. 1 and 2 starters. That's not fair to him. He was very courageous. (Jeremy) Bonderman has a chance to be a pretty good starter, maybe an ace—you never know. They have backups behind the plate. (Carlos) Pena is OK at first base, a good defender but not a top-flight first baseman. The infield is a mess. They have been touting people in their farm system who honestly are not very good. They have nothing coming. This is not the Twins, who can trade (A.J.) Pierzynski and have (Joe) Mauer ready to step in. The Tigers don't have anyone like that. It's bad there. There's not a whole lot of hope about them.

GRADING THE LINEUP

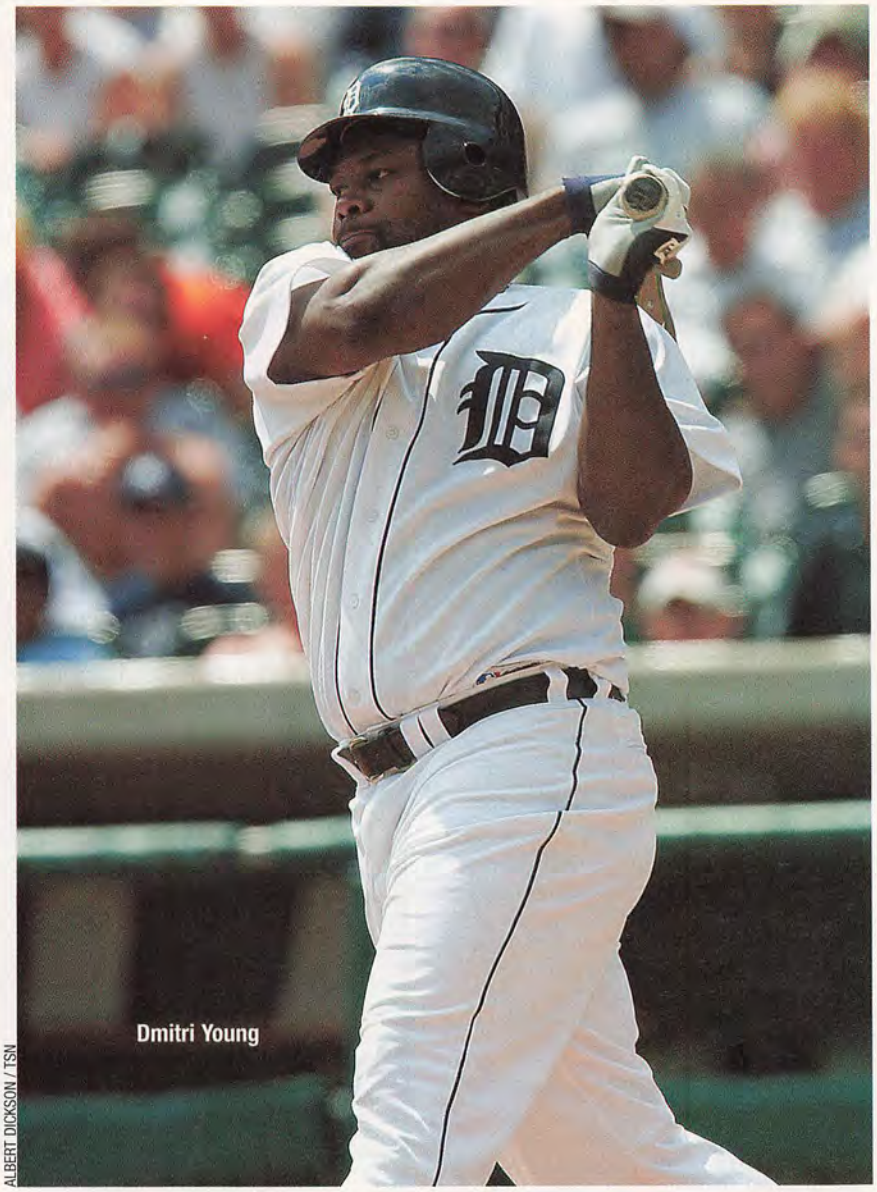
Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Fernando Vina, 2B	**5**
Detroit's first disciplined leadoff man in years.	
2. Alex Sanchez, CF	**4**
Speed burner learning to bunt, work count.	
3. Bobby Higginson, RF	**5**
Must regain stroke to make this lineup work.	
4. Dmitri Young, DH	**6**
New heart of Tigers matures into power hitter.	
5. Rondell White, LF	**5**
Line-drive power is a big edge in Comerica.	
6. Eric Munson, 3B	**4**
Quick bat on verge of 25-homer season.	
7. Carlos Pena, 1B	**4**
Pitch recognition is key to living up to hype.	
8. Carlos Guillen, SS	**4**
Staying healthy has been a challenge.	
9. Brandon Inge, C	**4**
.250 would be enough to nail down regular job.	
Starters	
1. Jason Johnson, RH	**5**
Veteran presence adds hope for this rotation.	
2. Mike Maroth, LH	**5**
Glavine clone tries to avenge 21-loss season.	
3. Jeremy Bonderman, RH	**5**
Ace in waiting is Detroit's best power arm.	
4. Nate Cornejo, RH	**4**
Honed control; now comes velocity.	
5. Nate Robertson, LH	**4**
Decent arm needs experience, command.	
Closer	
Fernando Rodney, RH	**5**
Better changeup rounds out a nice package.	
Total	**69**

does put the ball in play consistently while batting first or second in the order.

Vina will pair up the middle with newcomer Carlos Guillen, who was acquired in a trade with the Mariners. Guillen gives the Tigers a major offensive upgrade at shortstop over Omar Infante and Ramon Santiago, who was traded to the Mariners. But Guillen will have to show he can stay healthy.

Infante has talent and will be available if Guillen cannot stay in the lineup. Infante struggles through concentration lapses that cost him his starting job last season and later his roster spot. **GRADE: C-**


Dmitri Young

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

OUTFIELD These are the guys who will determine whether Detroit's offense finally gets going.

The attack would have been non-existent last season without Young, who has blossomed from a .300 doubles hitter when he signed into a 30-homer slugger-in-waiting. Combine his cat-quick bat with a willingness to use both gaps, and he is a supporting hitter or two away from prominence. As it is, the designated hitter feels the burden of carrying the offense and sometimes swings at bad pitches.

In past years, support would have come from right fielder Bobby Higginson in the form of 25-homer, 100-RBI numbers. But two years of hamstring injuries and nine years of losing have taken their toll. Trammell must find a way to better utilize Higginson's patient bat and pull power.

That might come in the form of a platoon with Craig Monroe, who shuttled between Class AAA Toledo and Detroit last season. Monroe has righthanded power and he punishes lefthanders and fastballers. But finesse pitchers give him fits.

The Tigers are hoping free agent Rondell White can provide an offensive boost. He certainly did plenty of damage against the Tigers last season, batting .389 in nine games. Comerica Park could be perfect for his gap-hitting style.

Alex Sanchez has stopped the revolving door in center field. A reported bad seed in Milwaukee, he has become a willing listener to Trammell and a speedy weapon near the top of the lineup. Sanchez has all the tools to become a table-setter for the Tigers. His next step is learning when to steal and how to read pitchers. **GRADE: C**

Jason Beck covers the Tigers for MLB.com.

Tigers Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.240	.267
Runs	591	788
Hits	1312	1495
Home runs	153	179
Stolen bases	98	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	5.30	4.52
Complete games	3	8
Saves	27	38
Walks	557	508
Strikeouts	764	981
Errors	138	105

WINS AND LOSSES

43-119 (5th in A.L. Central), 23-58 at home, 20-61 on road, 9-27 vs. A.L. East, 24-52 vs. A.L. Central, 6-26 vs. A.L. West, 4-14 vs. N.L., 12-38 vs. LH starters, 31-81 vs. RH starters, 41-106 on grass, 2-13 on turf, 12-43 in daytime, 31-76 at night, 19-18 in one-run games, 4-13 in extra-inning games, 0-1-0 in doubleheaders.
Alan Trammell's record: 43-119, 1 season with Tigers.
Postseason: none.
Team record past five years: 312-496 (.386, ranks 30th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: C Mike DiFelice (FA/Royals), RHP Jason Johnson (FA/Orioles), RHP Al Levine (FA/Royals), 2B Fernando Vina (FA/Cardinals), OF Rondell White (FA/Royals).
Losses: LHP Steve Avery (FA), IF Shane Halter (FA), OF/C Ben Petrick (FA), C Matt Walbeck (retired), IF Kevin Witt (FA/Cardinals).

MEDIA

Radio: WXYT-AM (1270)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net Detroit
Website: detroittigers.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Toledo (International)
Class AA: Erie (Southern)
Class A: Lakeland (Florida State), Oneonta (New York-Pennsylvania), West Michigan (Midwest)
Rookie: Gulf Coast Tigers (Gulf Coast)

Comerica Park

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 40,120
Ticket information: 313-471-2255

Spring training: Joker Marchant Stadium (Lakeland, Fla.)
Ticket information: 863-686-8075

Tigers Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 TOR	6 TOR	7 TOR	8 MIN	9	10 MIN
11 MIN	12	13 TOR	14 TOR	15 TOR	16 CLE	17 CLE
18 CLE	19 CLE	20 MIN	21 MIN	22 MIN	23 CLE	24 CLE
25 CLE	26	27 ANA	28 ANA	29 ANA	30 SEA	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 SEA
2 SEA	3 ANA	4 ANA	5 ANA	6	7 TEX	8 TEX
9 TEX	10	11 OAK	12 OAK	13 OAK	14 TEX	15 TEX
16 TEX	17	18 OAK	19 OAK	20 OAK	21 SEA	22 SEA
23 SEA	24	25 KC	26 KC	27 KC	28 BAL	29 BAL
30 BAL	31 KC					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 KC	2 KC	3 KC	4 MIN	5 MIN
6 MIN	7	8 ATL	9 ATL	10 ATL	11 FLA	12 FLA
13 FLA	14	15 PHI	16 PHI	17 PHI	18 NYM	19 NYM
20 NYM	21	22 KC	23 KC	24 KC	25 ARI	26 ARI
27 ARI	28	29 CLE	30 CLE			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 CLE	2 COL	3 COL
4 COL	5 NYY	6 NYY	7 NYY	8 MIN	9 MIN	10 MIN
11 MIN	12	13 All-Star	14	15 NYY	16 NYY	17 NYY
18 NYY	19 MIN	20 MIN	21 KC	22 KC	23 CHW	24 CHW
25 CHW	26 CLE	27 CLE	28 CLE	29 CHW	30 CHW	31 CHW

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 CHW	2	3 TEX	4 TEX	5 TEX	6 BOS	7 BOS
8 BOS	9	10 OAK	11 OAK	12 OAK	13 ANA	14 ANA
15 ANA	16	17 CHW	18 CHW	19 CHW	20 SEA	21 SEA
22 SEA	23 CHW	24 CHW	25 CHW	26 BOS	27 BOS	28 BOS
29 BOS	30 KC	31 KC				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 KC	2	3 TB	4 TB
5 TB	6 KC	7 KC	8 KC	9 KC	10 MIN	11 MIN
12 MIN	13 MIN	14 CLE	15 CLE	16 CLE	17 CHW	18 CHW
19 CHW	20 CLE	21 CLE	22 CLE	23	24 BAL	25 BAL
26 BAL	27 CHW	28 CHW	29 CHW	30		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 TB	2 TB
3 TB	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Alan Trammell (3). Coaches: Bob Cluck (54), Bruce Fields (24), Kirk Gibson (22), Mick Kelleher (18), Lance Parrish (13), Juan Samuel (10).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
14	Anderson, Matt	R/R	6-4/200	27	Toledo	1-3	3.79	23/5	3	38.0	50	23	16	8	31
					Detroit	0-1	5.40	23/0	3	23.1	25	17	14	9	13
	Baugh, Kenny	R/R	6-4/195	25	Lakeland	3-0	3.86	4/4	0	21.0	21	14	9	11	12
					Erie	7-9	4.60	19/19	0	109.2	111	71	56	32	58
38	Bonderman, J.	R/R	6-2/210	21	Detroit	6-19	5.56	33/28	0	162.0	193	118	100	58	108
	Bumatay, Mike	L/L	6-0/170	24	Visalia	0-0	0.00	8/0	2	9.0	1	0	0	5	16
34	Cornejo, Nate	R/R	6-5/245	24	Detroit	6-17	4.67	32/32	0	194.2	236	111	101	58	46
36	Eckenstahler, Eric	L/L	6-7/220	27	Toledo	3-6	3.16	39/0	0	42.2	32	21	15	25	40
					Detroit	0-0	2.87	20/0	0	15.2	9	6	5	15	12
62	German, Franklyn	R/R	6-7/270	24	Toledo	1-4	2.45	24/0	4	29.1	21	9	8	9	32
					Detroit	2-4	6.04	45/0	5	44.2	47	32	30	45	41
	Henkel, Rob	R/L	6-2/210	25	Erie	9-3	3.38	16/16	0	82.2	67	33	31	27	70
	Johnson, Jason	R/R	6-6/217	30	Baltimore	10-10	4.18	32/32	0	189.2	216	100	88	80	118
35	Knotts, Gary	R/R	6-4/230	27	Toledo	4-6	5.13	13/13	0	79.0	98	54	45	28	63
					Detroit	3-8	6.04	20/18	0	95.1	111	70	64	47	51
	Larrison, Preston	R/R	6-4/235	23	Toledo	0-1	3.38	1/1	0	5.1	3	3	2	2	3
					Erie	4-12	5.61	24/24	0	126.2	161	89	79	59	53
	Ledezma, Wilfredo	L/L	6-3/150	23	Detroit	3-7	5.79	34/8	0	84.0	99	55	54	35	49
	Levine, Al	L/R	6-3/175	35	Tampa Bay	3-5	2.90	36/0	0	49.2	45	23	16	18	25
					Kansas City	0-1	2.53	18/0	1	21.1	22	6	6	11	5
46	Maroth, Mike	L/L	6-0/190	26	Detroit	9-21	5.73	33/33	0	193.1	231	131	123	50	87
45	Mears, Chris	R/R	6-4/190	26	Toledo	5-1	2.78	25/5	2	58.1	53	20	18	19	28
					Detroit	1-3	5.44	29/3	5	41.1	50	28	25	11	21
	Novoa, Roberto	R/R	6-5/200	24	Lakeland	4-5	3.73	19/15	0	99.0	93	45	41	25	71
28	Patterson, Danny	R/R	6-0/190	33	Toledo	1-0	2.45	10/0	0	11.0	8	3	3	5	6
					Detroit	0-0	4.08	19/0	3	17.2	15	8	8	4	19
59	Robertson, Nate	R/L	6-2/215	26	Toledo	9-7	3.14	24/23	0	155.0	145	62	54	47	102
					Detroit	1-2	5.44	8/8	0	44.2	55	27	27	23	33
56	Rodney, Fernando	R/R	5-11/208	27	Toledo	1-1	1.33	38/0	23	40.2	22	6	6	13	58
					Detroit	1-3	6.07	27/0	3	29.2	35	20	20	17	33
52	Roney, Matt	R/R	6-3/230	24	Detroit	1-9	5.45	45/11	0	100.2	102	67	61	48	47
48	Spurling, Chris	R/R	6-5/228	26	Detroit	1-3	4.68	66/0	3	77.0	78	42	40	22	38
	Urdaneta, Lino	R/R	6-1/170	24	Jacksonville	0-8	4.29	44/0	6	65.0	68	37	31	24	42
32	Walker, Jamie	L/L	6-2/190	32	Detroit	4-3	3.32	78/0	3	65.0	61	30	24	17	45

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	DiFelice, Mike	R/R	6-2/205	34	Kansas City	.254	62	189	29	48	16	1	3	25	9	30	1
15	Inge, Brandon	R/R	5-11/195	26	Toledo	.275	39	142	15	39	9	0	5	15	11	23	3
					Detroit	.203	104	330	32	67	15	3	8	30	24	79	4
	Shelton, Chris	R/R	6-0/225	23	Lynchburg	.359	95	315	71	113	24	1	21	69	68	67	1
					Altoona	.279	35	122	17	34	10	1	0	14	8	23	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Guillen, Carlos	B/R	6-1/205	28	Tacoma	.357	4	14	2	5	1	0	2	4	0	1	0
					Seattle	.276	109	388	63	107	19	3	7	52	52	64	4
20	Infante, Omar	R/R	6-0/176	22	Toledo	.223	64	224	28	50	10	0	2	18	22	32	22
					Detroit	.222	69	221	24	49	6	1	0	8	18	37	6
	Kelly, Donald	L/R	6-4/190	24	Lakeland	.317	87	303	48	96	17	4	1	38	45	25	15
					Erie	.265	22	83	14	22	5	1	1	13	15	9	0
31	Munson, Eric	L/R	6-3/230	26	Detroit	.240	99	313	28	75	9	0	18	50	35	61	3
12	Pena, Carlos	L/L	6-2/215	25	Toledo	.333	8	30	4	10	4	1	0	5	4	7	0
					Detroit	.248	131	452	51	112	21	6	18	50	53	123	4
	Raburn, Ryan	R/R	6-0/185	22	Lakeland	.222	95	325	52	72	14	3	12	56	45	89	2
	Vina, Fernando	L/R	5-9/180	34	Memphis	.176	5	17	1	3	0	0	0	1	2	2	0
					St. Louis	.251	61	259	35	65	14	4	4	23	11	24	4

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
4	Higginson, Bobby	L/R	5-11/195	33	Detroit	.235	130	469	61	110	13	4	14	52	59	73	8
	Logan, Nook	S/R	6-2/180	24	Erie	.251	136	514	71	129	16	7	4	38	51	103	37
27	Monroe, Craig	R/R	6-1/215	27	Toledo	.404	14	47	14	19	4	1	2	6	4	10	1
					Detroit	.240	128	425	51	102	18	1	23	70	27	89	4
26	Ross, Cody	R/L	5-11/180	23	Toledo	.287	124	470	74	135	35	6	20	61	32	86	15
					Detroit	.211	6	19	1	4	1	0	1	5	1	3	0
19	Sanchez, Alex	L/L	5-10/159	27	Milwaukee	.282	43	163	15	46	10	3	0	10	7	28	8
					Detroit	.289	101	394	43	114	13	5	1	22	18	46	44
	White, Rondell	R/R	6-1/220	32	San Diego	.278	115	413	49	115	17	3	18	66	25	71	1
					Kansas City	.347	22	75	13	26	6	1	4	21	6	8	0
25	Young, Dmitri	B/R	6-2/245	30	Detroit	.297	155	562	78	167	34	7	29	85	58	130	2

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Brian Schmack, LHP Andy Van Hekken, IF Brent Abernathy, IF Danny Klassen, IF Warren Morris, IF Dean Palmer, IF Jason Smith, OF Marcus Thames.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS

PROJECTED A.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 2ND

By Robert Falkoff/MLB.com

The 2003 Royals arrived at spring training and found, draped across their clubhouse chairs, shirts with inscriptions that summed up manager Tony Pena's attitude: "We don't care what anybody says, we just play to win."

And those Royals, coming off a 100-loss season, indeed played to win. The upstart team showed a 21-game improvement and ended with an 83-79 record, their first winning season since 1994. But now that the Royals have put themselves back on the major league map with an improbable run at an American League Central title, skeptics are wondering if they can handle the burden of bigger expectations.

After building a 7½-game lead in the A.L. Central on July 17 and staying in first place until August 29, the Royals know they will not sneak up on anybody this season. Their mission is to prove 2003 was not just a wonderful fluke.

TSNUMBER

15

Starting pitchers the Royals used because of 2003 injuries. The team needs durability, as well as ability, from the rotation to be a contender.

The offense suffered a big blow when middle-of-the-order stalwart Raul Ibanez took a free-agent trip to Seattle. But that disappointment was cushioned when the team re-signed lefthander Brian Anderson to bolster the starting rotation and signed power-hitting free agent Juan Gonzalez to fill the outfield void.

The Royals are counting on Anderson and lefthanded pitcher Darrell May to be innings eaters. They believe Rookie of the Year Angel Berroa will build on his 2003 accomplishments at shortstop, and they are relying on hitter deluxe and first baseman Mike Sweeney to have a healthy season after two years of back pain and frustration.

The Royals must get more consistency out of the bullpen, and their young starters must show they can stay healthy over the long haul. But this club suddenly acquired a taste for winning and now expects to take the next step, as the Twins did in recent years.

The Royals of 2003 were like a green apple that turned red. Now, they fully intend to enjoy a ripe 2004.

MANAGER Pena believes the Royals will forge ahead as contenders. Considering what the A.L.'s Manager of the Year pulled off in 2003, few doubt his sincerity. Pena's energy and enthusiasm are infectious. He does not whine about a limited payroll or hang his

A healthy Sweeney could translate into another season of dramatic improvement for the young Royals.

DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

head at the sight of damaging injury reports. For Pena, every day at the ballpark is a good day and the players have responded to his upbeat style and open-door policy.

Pena's ability to guide the Royals from 62 wins in 2002 to 83 in 2003 takes on added significance when one considers that injuries forced him to use 15 different starting pitchers. Even with a patchwork rotation, the Royals stayed in contention for a division title until the final week of the regular season.

Pena's quest this year is to build on the positives while scrubbing away at any lingering doubts from eight consecutive losing seasons. As a strategist, Pena stresses what he calls "the short game," and moving runners along with a proper situational hitting was a spring training theme. Pena will reinforce those fundamentals again in 2004.

The manager fiercely protects the arms of his young starters by close scrutiny of pitch counts and, when he is attempting to diagnose issues with a pitcher's mechanics, he heads to the bullpen and catches that particular pitcher himself. If the players' passion matches Pena's, the team should be in good shape. **GRADE: A**

ROTATION Based on the 2003 performances of lefthanders Anderson and May, the Royals should be able to get about 400 innings from the top of the rotation.

May came a long way to capture the team pitcher of the year honors. After starting the season as the No. 5 starter and even being ousted from the rotation for a brief stretch, May bounced back to become a model of consistency. He compiled a 3.77 ERA over 210 innings and showed why the Royals were intent on bringing him back following a four-year stint in Japan (1998-2001). May was a polished pitcher in the second half, showcasing exceptional control and changing speeds to keep hitters off balance. Being temporarily ousted from the rotation in early May was a motivational wakeup call.

Anderson was thought to be a rent-a-player when he came over from Cleveland. But he enjoyed his Kansas City tenure so much that he took a two-year deal from the Royals. Anderson went 5-1 with a 3.99 ERA after his arrival, and if he can match his 197⅔ combined innings of 2003, he will help keep the bullpen from being overworked.

Beyond May and Anderson, the rotation spots are wide open. The big variable is lefthander Jeremy Affeldt, who has the best pure stuff among all starting candidates. But Affeldt has been beset with blister problems when he throws 80-90 pitches on a consistent basis. He will go to spring training with a chance to start. But the first sign of blisters will move him back to the bullpen—permanently. Royals management and Affeldt have an agreement.

The Royals are hopeful veteran righthander Kevin Appier still has something left after elbow surgery. If he is pain-free, Appier could bring stability to the young rotation. Jimmy Gobble, Chris George, Kyle Snyder and Miguel Asencio, who have limited experience, also will compete for starting jobs. So will prize prospect Zack Greinke, the 20-year-old who has everybody in the organization raving about his future. The Royals will not rush Greinke. But if he flourishes in spring training, the club will not hold him back. **GRADE: C**

BULLPEN Again, the Affeldt variable factors in here. Some team officials believe Affeldt could become a dominant closer, which would force last year's stopper, Mike MacDougal, into a setup role. The righthanded MacDougal, whose fastball sometimes approaches 100 mph, burst onto the scene last April when he set a major league rookie record for the month with nine saves and he went on to make the All-Star team. But his command faded and so did his hold on the closer job, although he still posted 27 saves in 35 opportunities.

One of the game's weakest bullpens in 2003 enters the new season as one of its most improved. The team got a huge lift in late November with the signing of veteran righthander Curtis Leskanic, who compiled a 1.73 ERA in 27 appearances after coming over from Milwaukee. Then, in short order, overworked veteran setup man Jason Grimsley re-signed and dependable middle-relief righthander Scott Sullivan accepted the Royals' free-agent offer, leaving the rival White Sox. Those are four quality arms at Pena's disposal.

Rule 5 righthander D.J. Carrasco, who attacks hitters from different arm angles, also displayed good ability last season and will compete for a middle-relief/spot starter role. And righthander Nate Field could be ready to blossom. **GRADE: B**

CATCHING Looking for an offensive upgrade at catcher, the team said goodbye to Brent Mayne and hello to 18-year veteran Benito Santiago. While playing for the Giants last year, Santiago showed he can still

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Prized LHP **Jeremy Affeldt** to become a full-time reliever. With his talent, Affeldt could become Kansas City's answer to **John Smoltz**.
2. CF **Carlos Beltran** to emerge as a strong MVP candidate. He is in his final season before hitting the free-agent market. Look for him to leave Kansas City with a five-tool bang.
3. 3B **Joe Randa** will challenge Oakland's **Eric Chavez** for a Gold Glove. The sure-handed Randa committed just 10 errors in 2002, seven in '03.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

Losing (Raul) Ibanez really hurt them, but Carlos Beltran is one of the best all-around players in the game and Mike Sweeney, if he stays healthy, is one of the best hitters. ... I wouldn't put the young shortstop (Angel Berroa) among the three or four best in the American League right now, but he has a chance to get there. ... It'll be interesting to see whether Jeremy Affeldt winds up starting or being a reliever. There's a guy with high-quality stuff. He can go through the Red Sox lineup six up and six down, for instance, and not many guys have the stuff to do that. ... I'm not sold on Mike MacDougal as a closer. The guy has a great arm, but I like a closer with more experience and better command. His ball moves so much it's hard for him to have great command. ... Brian Anderson was a nice guy to sign. He's a Jamie Moyer type. ... In that division, they will have enough to contend if their young pitching comes along.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Angel Berroa, SS	**6**
A.L.'s top rookie made huge strides offensively.	
2. Aaron Guiel, LF	**5**
Longtime minor leaguer has found his niche.	
3. Carlos Beltran, CF	**8**
One of the game's top all-around talents.	
4. Mike Sweeney, 1B	**7**
Seeking big numbers after injury-marred season.	
5. Juan Gonzalez, RF	**5**
A run-producer to protect Sweeney, Beltran.	
6. Joe Randa, 3B	**6**
Solid RBI man in the middle of the order.	
7. Benito Santiago, C	**5**
Breaks K.C.'s string of weak-hitting catchers.	
8. Ken Harvey, DH	**5**
Held his own as a rookie in 2003.	
9. Desi Relaford, 2B	**5**
Should be ready to go after wrist surgery.	
Starters	
1. Darrell May, LH	**5**
Looking to build on solid second half in '03.	
2. Brian Anderson, LH	**5**
Wasn't just an '03 rent-a-player after all.	
3. Jeremy Affeldt, LH	**5**
To start, or not to start: That is the question.	
4. Miguel Ascencio, RH	**4**
Ready to go after arthroscopic elbow surgery.	
5. Jimmy Gobble, LH	**5**
Acquitted himself well during pennant race.	
Closer	
Mike MacDougal, RH	**5**
He has the fastball; now can he find command?	
Total	**81**

swing a potent bat, hitting .279 in 108 games. Santiago threw out just 15.4 percent of the runners trying to steal on him (8-of-44), but the Royals' scouts still believe he has the arm strength and release to keep the base traffic under control.

When Santiago needs a rest, Pena will call on veteran Kelly Stinnett, who divided the 2003 season between Cincinnati and Philadelphia. **GRADE: C**

INFIELD The big number for Sweeney is 600. As in 600 at-bats. Sweeney had 618 at-bats in his breakout season of 2000 when he hit .333 with 144 RBIs and he had 559 at-bats the next year. But back-related ailments have limited him to just 471 and 392 the last two years. A healthy Sweeney would be huge for an offense that must get by without Ibanez. Sweeney and Ken Harvey will compete for defensive time at first base through spring training. The guy who finishes second in that battle inherits designated hitter duties.

Desi Relaford goes to spring training cast as the everyday second baseman. Relaford started last year as a jack-of-all-trades performer and was on track for a particularly strong offensive season before suffering a wrist injury that required postseason surgery. Relaford was hitting .288 through June 30. Usually a switch hitter, he was forced to bat strictly lefthanded because of the sore wrist beginning July 1 and hit just .220 the rest of the way. The Royals think that being stationed at one position will help alleviate some of the mental fatigue for Relaford, who started at six different positions in 2003. Relaford's utility role now will be handled by free-agent pickup Tony Graffanino, who batted .260 while playing five different positions last year for the White Sox.

Berroa will try to avoid the sophomore jinx . His .287 average last season came with 17 homers and 73 RBIs. The Royals rate Berroa as having the best range among league shortstops and the second-best arm strength behind Texas' Alex Rodriguez.

The team again will have steady veteran Joe Randa at third. Randa hit .344 after the break, and his .980 fielding percentage was the best among all third basemen. **GRADE: B**

OUTFIELD Carlos Beltran, who has emerged as one of the game's top center fielders, is entering his final season before hitting the free-agent market. That usually translates into top performance. The Royals have moved the fences back at Kauffman Stadium, meaning Beltran will have more room to roam.

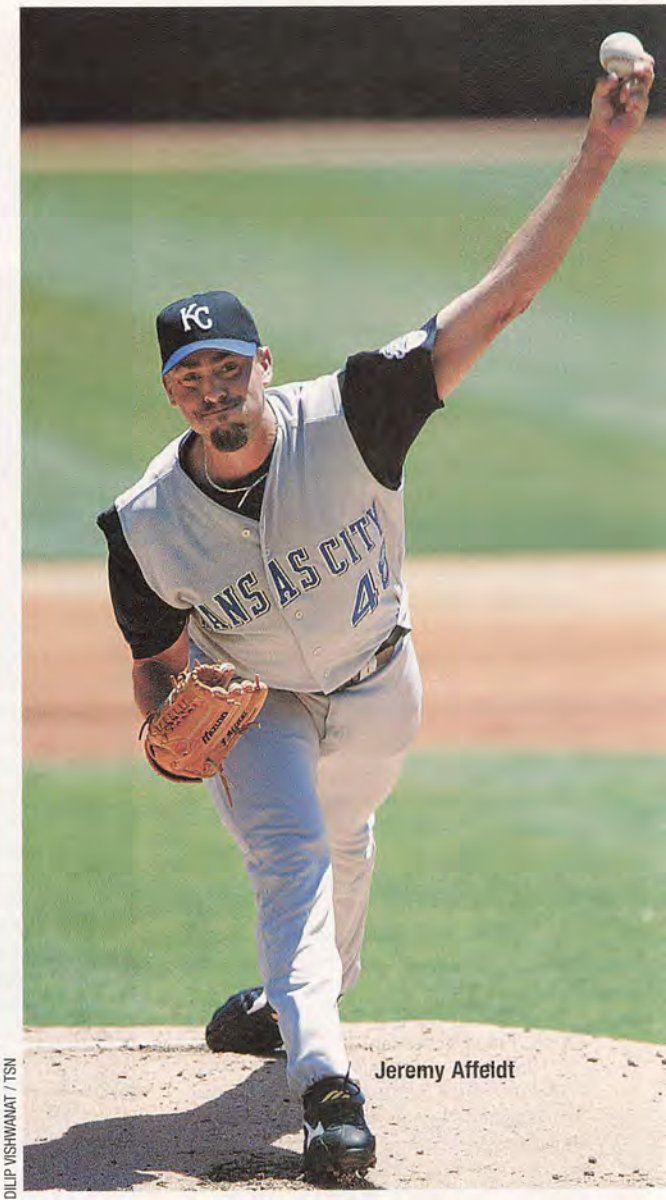
All the Royals ask of Beltran is a stronger start at the plate. He opened last year on the disabled list and has historically been a slow starter. But Beltran always seems to have a robust second half and his final numbers have become increasingly impressive.

Gonzalez will be plugged into right field with Aaron Guiel moving to the vacated left field position. Gonzalez, 34, adds a big power bat to the lineup and protection for both Sweeney and Beltran. If he can stay healthy, the big righthanded hitter could be a 40-homer, 120-RBI offensive boost.

The spunky Guiel, who hit .277 and launched 15 homers last year after a late May call-up, was solid on defense and sparked the club from the leadoff spot, even though he does not have great speed.

Newcomer Matt Stairs, a 20-homer man last season for Pittsburgh, will get some time in the outfield and at DH. The Royals also figure to give a good spring look to coming attraction David DeJesus. **GRADE: B-**

Robert Falkoff covers the Royals for MLB.com.



Jeremy Affeldt

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Royals Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.274	.267
Runs	836	788
Hits	1526	1495
Home runs	162	179
Stolen bases	120	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	5.05	4.52
Complete games	7	8
Saves	36	38
Walks	566	508
Strikeouts	865	981
Errors	108	105

WINS AND LOSSES

83-79 (3rd in A.L. Central), 40-40 at home, 43-39 on road, 12-20 vs. A.L. East, 46-30 vs. A.L. Central, 16-20 vs. A.L. West, 9-9 vs. N.L., 24-24 vs. LH starters, 59-55 vs. RH starters, 75-70 on grass, 8-9 on turf, 27-26 in daytime, 56-53 at night, 18-22 in one-run games, 5-4 in extra-inning games, 0-3-0 in doubleheaders.
Tony Pena's record: 132-156, 2 seasons with Royals.
Postseason: none.
Team record past five years: 351-458 (.434, ranks 27th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: OF Juan Gonzalez (FA/Rangers), IF Tony Graffanino (FA/White Sox), C Benito Santiago (FA/Giants), OF Matt Stairs (FA/Pirates), C Kelly Stinnett (FA/Phillies), RHP Scott Sullivan (FA/White Sox).
Losses: RHP Paul Abbott (FA/Devil Rays), C Mike DiFelice (FA/Tigers), OF Raul Ibanez (FA/Mariners), RHP Al Levine (FA/Tigers), RHP Jose Lima (FA), LHP Graeme Lloyd (FA), C Brent Mayne (FA/Diamondbacks), C Tom Prince (FA), OF Michael Tucker (FA/Giants), OF Rondell White (FA/Tigers), RHP Jamey Wright (FA/Cubs).

MEDIA

Radio: WHB-AM (810)
Cable TV: Royals Sports Television Network, LLC
Website: royals.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Omaha (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Wichita (Texas)
Class A: Burlington (Midwest), Wilmington (Carolina)
Rookie: Idaho Falls (Pioneer), Arizona Royals (Arizona)

Kauffman Stadium

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 40,793
Ticket information: 816-504-4040, 800-676-9257

Spring training: Surprise Stadium (Surprise, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 623-594-5600

Royals Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 CHW	6	7 CHW	8 CLE	9 CLE	10 CLE
11 CLE	12	13 CHW	14 CHW	15 CHW	16 MIN	17 MIN
18 MIN	19	20 CLE	21 CLE	22 CLE	23 MIN	24 MIN
25 MIN	26	27 TEX	28 TEX	29 TEX	30 NYY	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 NYY
2 NYY	3 TOR	4 TOR	5 TOR	6	7 BOS	8 BOS
9 BOS	10 TOR	11 TOR	12 TOR	13	14 OAK	15 OAK
16 OAK	17	18 TEX	19 TEX	20 TEX	21 OAK	22 OAK
23 OAK	24	25 DET	26 DET	27 DET	28 MIN	29 MIN
30 MIN	31 DET					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 DET	2 DET	3 DET	4 BOS	5 BOS
6 BOS	7	8 MON	9 MON	10 MON	11 NYM	12 NYM
13 NYM	14	15 ATL	16 ATL	17 ATL	18 PHI	19 PHI
20 PHI	21	22 DET	23 DET	24 DET	25 STL	26 STL
27 STL	28 BAL	29 BAL	30 BAL			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 BAL	2 SD	3 SD
4 SD	5 MIN	6 MIN	7 MIN	8	9 BAL	10 BAL
11 BAL	12	13 All-Star	14	15 MIN	16 MIN	17 MIN
18 MIN	19 BAL	20 BAL	21 DET	22 DET	23 CLE	24 CLE
25 CLE	26	27 TB	28 TB	29 TB	30 CLE	31 CLE

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 CLE	2	3 CHW	4 CHW	5 CHW	6 ANA	7 ANA
8 ANA	9 ANA	10 CHW	11 CHW	12 CHW	13 OAK	14 OAK
15 OAK	16	17 SEA	18 SEA	19 SEA	20 TEX	21 TEX
22 TEX	23 ANA	24 ANA	25 ANA	26 SEA	27 SEA	28 SEA
29 SEA	30 DET	31 DET				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 DET	2	3 MIN	4 MIN
5 MIN	6 DET	7 DET	8 DET	9 DET	10 TB	11 TB
12 TB	13 NYY	14 NYY	15 NYY	16	17 CLE	18 CLE
19 CLE	20 TB	21 TB	22 TB	23 CHW	24 CHW	25 CHW
26 CHW	27 CLE	28 CLE	29 CLE	30 CHW		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 CHW	2 CHW
3 CHW	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Tony Pena (6). Coaches: John Cumberland (47), John Mizerock (13), Jeff Pentland (22), Brian Poldberg, Bob Schaefer (44), Luis Silverio (17).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
48	Affeldt, Jeremy	L/L	6-4/215	24	Kansas City	7-6	3.93	36/18	4	126.0	126	58	55	38	98
19	Anderson, Brian	R/L	6-1/185	31	Cleveland	9-10	3.71	25/24	0	148.0	162	88	61	32	72
					Kansas City	5-1	3.99	7/7	0	49.2	50	22	22	11	15
55	Appier, Kevin	R/R	6-2/215	36	Anaheim	7-7	5.63	19/19	0	92.2	105	60	58	36	50
					Kansas City	1-2	4.26	4/4	0	19.0	15	9	9	7	5
53	Asencio, Miguel	R/R	6-2/190	23	Kansas City	2-1	5.21	8/8	0	48.1	54	29	28	21	27
					G.C. Royals	0-0	2.84	3/3	0	6.1	11	3	2	1	3
					Wichita	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	4.0	1	0	0	1	3
	Bass, Brian	R/R	6-0/190	22	Wilmington	9-8	2.84	26/26	0	152.1	129	59	48	43	119
35	Bukvich, Ryan	R/R	6-2/250	25	Kansas City	1-0	9.58	9/0	0	10.1	12	11	11	9	8
					Omaha	1-2	4.91	34/0	5	36.2	39	21	20	25	44
59	Carrasco, D.J.	R/R	6-1/215	26	Kansas City	6-5	4.82	50/2	2	80.1	82	44	43	40	57
	Dawley, Joe	R/R	6-4/205	32	Atlanta	0-0	18.00	5/0	0	7.0	15	14	14	3	8
					Richmond	3-5	3.34	46/4	23	56.2	47	25	21	23	73
	Field, Nate	R/R	6-2/200	28	Wichita	1-0	3.60	15/0	3	20.0	20	9	8	8	20
					Omaha	2-2	3.18	19/0	4	22.2	15	8	8	4	17
					Kansas City	1-1	4.15	19/0	0	21.2	19	10	10	14	19
32	George, Chris	L/L	6-2/200	24	Kansas City	9-6	7.11	18/18	0	93.2	120	75	74	44	39
					Omaha	3-5	7.29	10/10	0	54.1	71	49	44	22	28
	Gobble, Jimmy	L/L	6-3/190	22	Wichita	12-8	3.19	22/22	0	132.2	128	57	47	40	100
					Kansas City	4-5	4.61	9/9	0	52.2	56	32	27	15	31
38	Grimsley, Jason	R/R	6-3/205	36	Kansas City	2-6	5.16	76/0	0	75.0	88	47	43	36	58
40	Hernandez, Ru.	R/R	6-1/205	25	Omaha	1-0	1.80	1/1	0	5.0	3	1	1	2	5
					Wichita	0-2	3.86	2/2	0	9.1	9	4	4	5	5
					Kansas City	7-5	4.61	16/16	0	91.2	87	51	47	37	48
33	Leskanic, Curtis	R/R	6-0/196	35	Milwaukee	4-0	2.70	26/0	0	26.2	22	8	8	18	28
					Kansas City	1-0	1.73	27/0	2	26.0	16	7	5	11	22
54	MacDougal, Mike	B/R	6-4/195	27	Kansas City	3-5	4.08	68/0	27	64.0	64	36	29	32	57
34	May, Darrell	L/L	6-2/185	31	Kansas City	10-8	3.77	35/32	0	210.0	197	98	88	53	115
	Snyder, Kyle	B/R	6-8/220	26	Omaha	3-0	2.79	5/5	0	29.0	28	9	9	6	15
					G.C. Royals	0-0	4.50	1/1	0	2.0	3	1	1	0	1
					Wichita	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	5.0	2	0	0	0	2
					Kansas City	1-6	5.17	15/15	0	85.1	94	52	49	21	39
	Sullivan, Scott	R/R	6-3/210	33	Cincinnati	6-0	3.62	50/0	0	49.2	39	22	20	26	43
					Chicago A.L.	0-0	3.77	15/0	0	14.1	9	6	6	6	13
	Vasquez, Jorge	R/R	6-1/165	25	Wilmington	1-2	1.96	17/0	7	23.0	19	7	5	14	31
					Wichita	3-1	1.92	36/0	22	51.2	39	12	11	18	52
46	Voyles, Brad	R/R	6-0/195	27	Omaha	2-2	2.99	29/9	2	81.1	68	27	27	24	69
					Kansas City	0-2	7.18	11/3	0	31.1	47	29	25	18	24

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Santiago, Benito	R/R	6-1/200	39	San Francisco	.279	108	401	53	112	21	2	11	56	29	69	0
	Stinnett, Kelly	R/R	5-11/225	34	Cincinnati	.229	60	179	14	41	13	0	3	19	13	51	0
					Philadelphia	.429	7	7	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Tonis, Mike	R/R	6-3/220	25	Wichita	.238	87	307	34	73	18	0	2	24	23	52	3r

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
4	Berroa, Angel	R/R	6-0/175	26	Kansas City	.287	158	567	92	163	28	7	17	73	29	100	21
	Graffanino, Tony	R/R	6-1/190	31	Chicago A.L.	.260	90	250	51	65	15	3	7	23	24	37	8
28	Harvey, Ken	R/R	6-2/240	26	Kansas City	.266	135	485	50	129	30	0	13	64	29	94	2
	Patterson, Jarrod	L/R	6-1/195	30	Omaha	.257	123	478	74	123	33	2	18	91	51	92	4
					Kansas City	.182	13	22	3	4	0	0	0	0	3	6	0
16	Randa, Joe	R/R	5-11/190	34	Kansas City	.291	131	502	80	146	31	1	16	72	41	61	1
12	Relaford, Desi	B/R	5-9/180	30	Kansas City	.254	141	500	70	127	27	5	8	59	40	70	20
29	Sweeney, Mike	R/R	6-3/225	30	Kansas City	.293	108	392	62	115	18	1	16	83	64	56	3

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
15	Beltran, Carlos	B/R	6-1/190	26	Wichita	.333	3	9	3	3	2	0	0	1	2	3	1
					Kansas City	.307	141	521	102	160	14	10	26	100	72	81	41
8	Brown, Dee	L/R	6-0/225	26	G.C. Royals	.714	2	7	4	5	2	0	0	3	0	2	0
					Omaha	.277	12	47	6	13	2	0	2	9	4	9	1
					Kansas City	.227	50	132	16	30	7	0	2	14	8	37	1
	DeJesus, David	L/L	6-0/175	24	Wichita	.338	17	71	14	24	4	0	2	10	9	8	1
					Omaha	.298	59	215	49	64	16	3	5	23	34	30	8
					Kansas City	.286	12	7	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
	Gettis, Byron	R/R	6-0/240	23	Wichita	.302	140	510	80	154	31	4	16	103	55	110	15
	Gomez, Alexis	L/L	6-2/180	23	Omaha	.270	121	456	49	123	23	8	8	58	26	91	4
	Gonzalez, Juan	R/R	6-3/220	34	Texas	.294	82	327	49	96	17	1	24	70	14	73	1
45	Guiel, Aaron	L/R	5-10/200	31	Omaha	.279	52	190	38	53	9	2	8	30	33	43	3
					Kansas City	.277	99	354	63	98	30	0	15	52	27	63	3
	Stairs, Matt	L/R	5-9/210	36	Nashville	.167	7	18	4	3	0	0	2	3	7	2	0
					Pittsburgh	.292	121	305	49	89	20	1	20	57	45	64	0
	Thompson, Rich	L/R	6-3/180	24	New Haven	.313	49	182	39	57	5	1	0	9	10	24	15
					Syracuse	.295	28	112	13	33	2	1	0	7	9	10	11
					Nashville	.257	35	109	17	28	3	2	0	11	9	21	22

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Donnie Bridges, RHP Shawn Camp, RHP Zack Greinke, RHP Erik Hiljus, LHP Dennys Reyes, RHP James Serrano, RHP Eric Thompson, LHP Mike Venafro, LHP Wes Walrond, RHP Kris Wilson, C Mitch Maier, IF Gookie Dawkins, IF Ruben Gotay, IF Wilton Guerrero, IF Mendy Lopez, IF Donald Murphy, IF Calvin Pickering, IF Rick Short, OF Brandon Berger, OF Shane Costa.

MINNESOTA TWINS

PROJECTED A.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 1ST

By Mark Sheldon/MLB.com

For the last two years, the Twins have basked in the glow of something not often afforded small-market clubs these days: consecutive division titles. The architect of the success, general manager Terry Ryan, admirably built his winning club by developing a roster of mostly home-grown talent.

As that talent matured and improved, such players as Torii Hunter, Jacque Jones, Eddie Guardado, A.J. Pierzynski, Brad Radke and Doug Mientkiewicz became centerpieces in Minnesota's renaissance.

After essentially dominating the division in a 94-win 2002, things didn't go quite as smoothly during the 90-win 2003 season. The Twins were saddled by inconsistent play and stretches of poor starting pitching and often struggled to win at home. But the club rebounded and eventually was able to push its way into the playoffs.

TSNUMBER

139

Double plays grounded into by the Twins, the third highest total in the A.L. To combat that, the club will look for more opportunities to steal.

Approaching 2004, the reality that eventually finds all payroll-conscious teams, the budget, hit Twins fans like a splash of cold water.

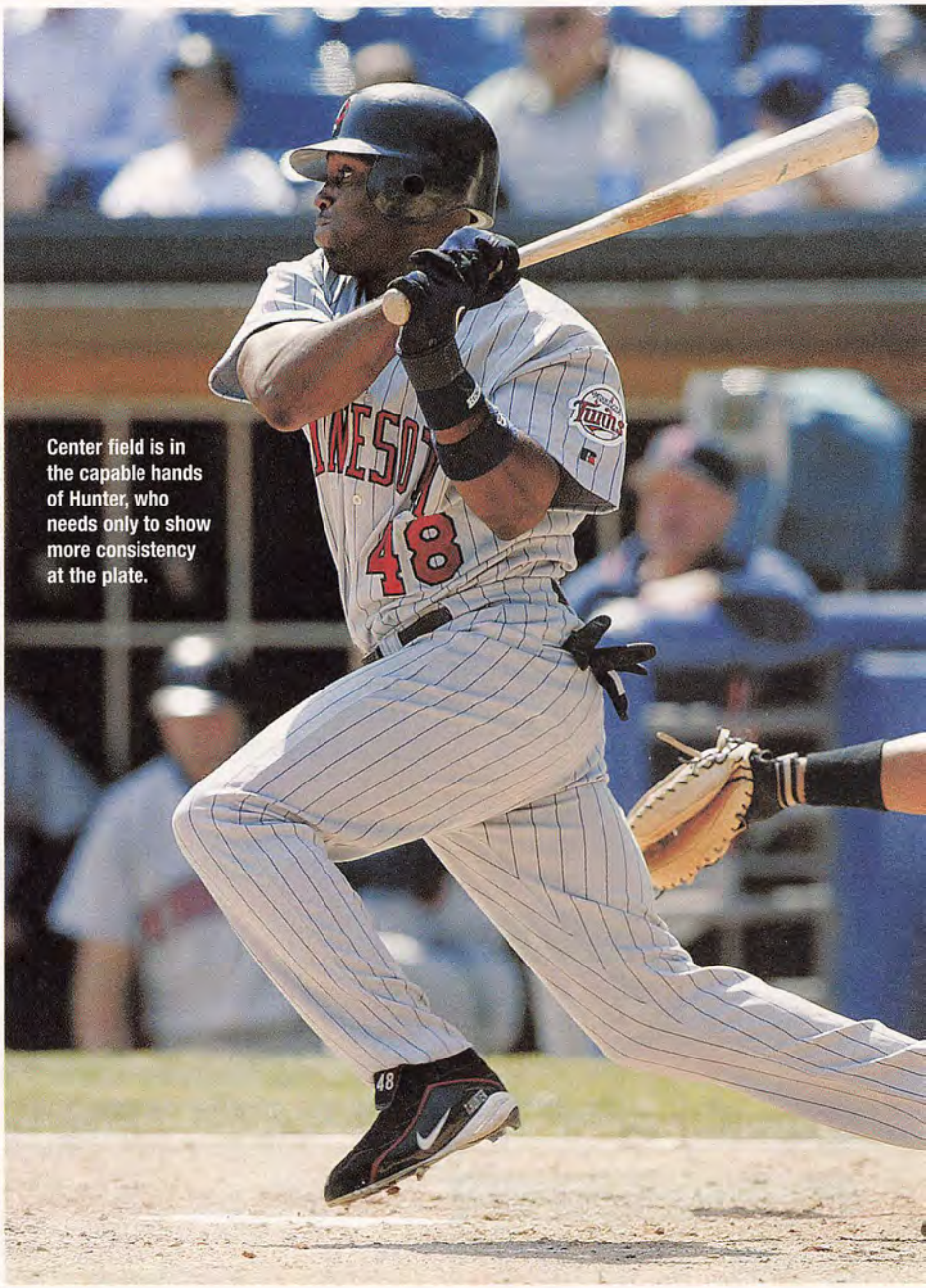
Twins ownership ordered no increases from the 2003 payroll of about $56 million.

Ryan was forced to make some tough choices, which included allowing closer Guardado (Mariners) and top setup man LaTroy Hawkins (Cubs) to leave as free agents and dealing Pierzynski to the Giants and lefthanded starter Eric Milton to the Phillies.

The offseason moves have opened the door for the next wave of players from the farm system, led by catcher Joe Mauer, sluggers Justin Morneau, Michael Cuddyer and Michael Restovich and starting pitcher J.D. Durbin.

Moreover, the Twins and manager Ron Gardenhire have much of the nucleus back, including Hunter, Corey Koskie, Jones and Mientkiewicz. Shannon Stewart, who helped spark the 2003 playoff move after being acquired from Toronto, was re-signed as a free agent. Radke, Johan Santana and Kyle Lohse combine for a formidable top three in the rotation.

Much like the last two seasons, pitching and defense will need to be the backbone for the club to have a chance to win another division title.



Center field is in the capable hands of Hunter, who needs only to show more consistency at the plate.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

MANAGER Gardenhire's leadership and patience helped keep the Twins together after a surprisingly poor start last season. He stresses fundamentals and an aggressive, never-say-die attitude, an approach that has rubbed off on most of his players.

Gardenhire is loyal to his players and often comes to their defense. But he'll also criticize and, occasionally, bench players if they don't seem to be giving 100 percent.

Some detractors would argue that Gardenhire can be too patient. He took heat from the public for waiting until mid-July to promote Santana from the bullpen to the rotation.

But it is hard to argue with the results: two seasons, two titles. The next challenge will likely involve handling the changes in

clubhouse chemistry as players arrive and depart.

As a defending division champion last year, the club felt pressure. As a two-time champion, it is sure to feel it again. Gardenhire will help determine how the Twins react. **GRADE: A**

ROTATION A baffling stretch of inconsistency from the starting five in the first half of last season had the Twins stuck in neutral. The rebound by Santana, Radke and Lohse played a big part in the second-half surge.

Santana, a lefthander, will enter the season as a starter for the first time in his big-league career and could emerge as the staff ace. He has a sensational changeup that complements a 92-93-mph fastball and hard slider.

Radke, who is tough on hitters when in command of his changeup, may no longer be the consensus rotation ace. But teammates are comfortable with him pitching big games.

Lohse drew All-Star consideration in '03 before bottoming out for a time in midsummer. When not putting too much pressure on himself to carry the load, he can flourish with his 94-mph fastball and a strong curveball. Another year of experience should bring more consistency.

The final two spots of the rotation remain question marks.

Veterans Milton, Kenny Rogers and Rick Reed are gone. Joe Mays will be sidelined until 2005 because of elbow surgery. The organization remains rich in pitching prospects, and righthanders Grant Balfour and Durbin could compete for spots. Look for Ryan to also seek a veteran starter who could fill out the rotation. **GRADE: B**

BULLPEN The losses of Guardado and Hawkins were tough. The club will likely seek a reputable closer through the free-agent market or by trade.

Setup man J.C. Romero, a lefthander, will be on the internal list of replacements for the closer's job, but he is coming off a down season. Partly because of an injured groin and partly because he was worried about numbers as he approached arbitration for the first time, Romero's command slipped last season.

Righthander Joe Nathan, acquired in the Pierzynski deal, was impressive for the Giants as a setup reliever last year, which was also his first season back from major shoulder surgery. He brings four pitches to the table, including a 95-97-mph fastball, and should help fill the void left by Hawkins' departure. Righthander Carlos Silva arrived in the Milton trade and will be another late-inning option.

In his first full year, righthander Juan Rincon's status improved from blowout duty to working in key situations in the middle-to-late innings. Other candidates to fill out the staff could be righthanders Balfour and Micheal Nakamura and lefthander Carlos Pulido. Righthander Jesse Crain has been impressive as a closer in the minors, but he might still need more seasoning. **GRADE: C-**

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A return to 25-homer, 100-RBI form by 3B **Corey Koskie**. Injuries slowed him the last two years, but hand surgery and a new, softer artificial surface at the Metrodome should help.
2. An All-Star season by RHP **Kyle Lohse**, who pitched brilliantly at times last season, especially in the early part of the year. That experience should bring more consistency.
3. A better on-base percentage by the speedy middle infield duo of SS **Cristian Guzman** and 2B **Luis Rivas**. Neither made the most of outstanding athletic abilities in 2003.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

I like (Johan) Santana. He's not a legit one or two guy, but he's a good three I would like to have. Each time I see him he gets better. The kid I really like who pitches better than his numbers is (Kyle) Lohse. I think he's going to adjust and be OK. ... The guy in center field (Torii Hunter) continues to improve—he has a chance of being a premier player, a star player. ... Behind the plate, I guess they're going to go with the (Joe) Mauer kid, who's an impressive-looking guy. A lot of people on the Olympic Committee talked about him, and he's the real deal. ... (Cristian) Guzman when he wants to play is fine, and he makes that club go. ... They need another big bat and some help off the bench. ... They are really going to miss (LaTroy) Hawkins. It was lights out when he got in there for them to get to (Eddie) Guardado. ... They have to address their pitching. If they don't, I'd have to lean toward the White Sox winning that division.

CATCHING With Pierzynski gone, it is the kid's job to lose. Mauer, the overall No. 1 pick in 2001, will make the jump from Class AA to the majors.

The Twins think Mauer, who will turn 21 on April 19, is ready. His lefthanded swing still lacks power but is considered as sound as there is in the game. His game-calling skills and defensive ability have also drawn kudos.

Mauer's maturity has impressed observers, and it should help him cope with major league demands.

Matthew LeCroy will see most of his at-bats as the designated hitter, but he is a serviceable backup catcher who can also play first base. LeCroy brings power to the lineup, and he also is a smart hitter who comes through in the clutch.

Look for the Twins to add a veteran catcher from outside the organization as insurance. **GRADE: C+**

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Shannon Stewart, LF	**6**
Consistent hitter. Must continue to set table.	
2. Luis Rivas, 2B	**4**
Needs to get on base more.	
3. Doug Mientkewicz, 1B	**5**
Wrist surgery should help when swinging.	
4. Matt LeCroy, DH	**5**
Can get the big hit when needed.	
5. Jacque Jones, RF	**5**
Has good power; could be very productive.	
6. Torii Hunter, CF	**6**
Still works on hitting; could get even better.	
7. Corey Koskie, 3B	**6**
Offensive production linked to staying healthy.	
8. Joe Mauer, C	**5**
Maturity, natural ability will carry him.	
9. Cristian Guzman, SS	**5**
Speed, talent are there. Intensity questionable.	
Starters	
1. Johan Santana, LH	**7**
Strikeout pitcher new to 200-inning season.	
2. Brad Radke, RH	**6**
Rock of the rotation if he's consistent.	
3. Kyle Lohse, RH	**5**
Shouldn't put too much pressure on himself.	
4. Grant Balfour, RH	**4**
Youngster might get his big shot.	
5. J.D. Durbin, RH	**4**
A coming attraction could arrive in 2004.	
Closer	
Joe Nathan, RH	**4**
He's it unless there's a deal.	
Total	**77**

INFIELD There are few infields in the game as sound defensively, especially at the corners. While denied his second Gold Glove, Mientkiewicz might still be second to none defensively at first base. Saving runs with solid plays on hot grounders and tough line drives often makes up for what Mientkiewicz lacks in home run production. Despite a wrist injury that required offseason surgery, he was still a .300 hitter.

On the other side, third baseman Koskie will one day be rewarded with a Gold Glove for his consistently steady play. Injuries have played a part in an offensive decline. Koskie may have been too selective at the plate last season, often taking third strikes.

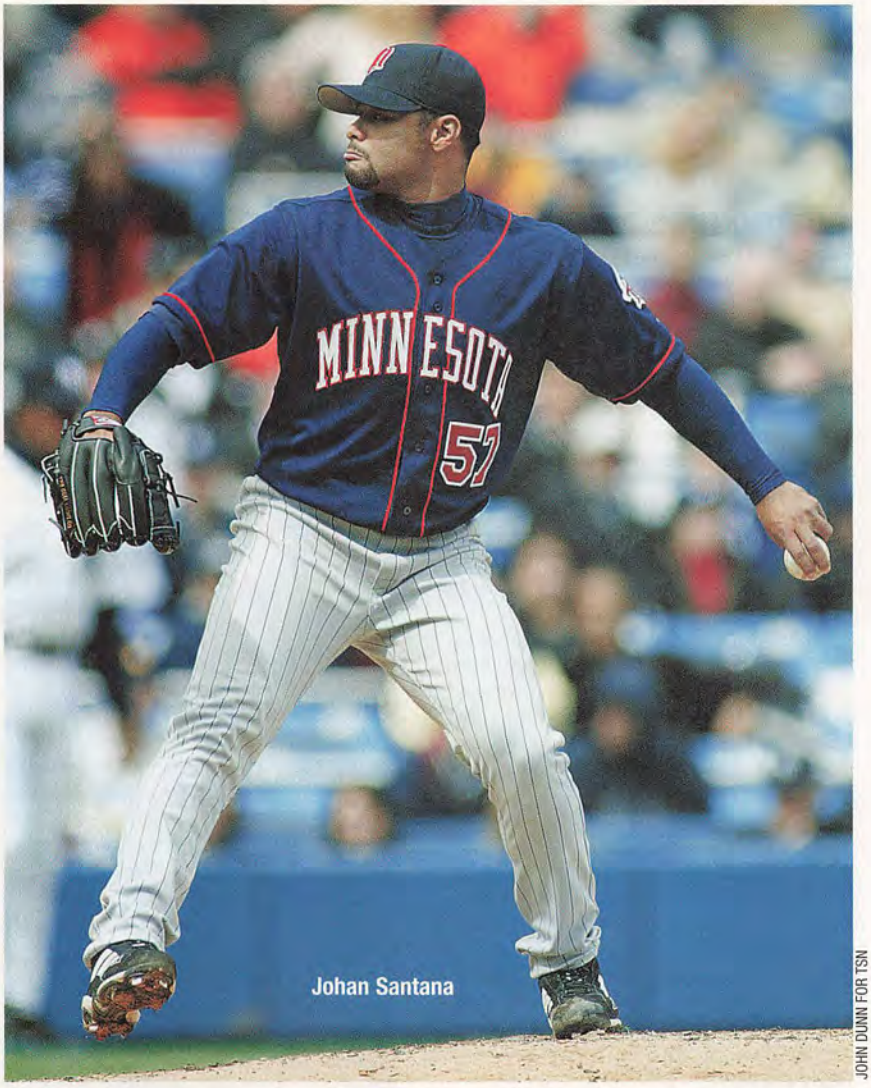
In the middle, the club is waiting for offensive results to equal the great athletic abilities possessed by speedy shortstop Cristian Guzman and second baseman Luis Rivas.

Guzman, while leading the league in triples three of the last four years, remains on whole an undisciplined slap hitter. He

occasionally has lapses of intensity and has been benched for poor play.

Rivas has not equaled the levels of his 2001 rookie season. But like Guzman, he has plenty of speed. Rivas occasionally has lapses of concentration. Batting behind Stewart, he will have a good opportunity to help set the table.

Longtime utilityman Denny Hocking is gone, as is Chris Gomez. One of those players will be replaced by offseason acquisition Nick Punto. Already having the ability to play third and first base, Cuddyer is learning to play second base and could provide help there as well as a big bat off the bench. Morneau started strong last season before fading and still needs work defensively at first base. **GRADE: B**



Johan Santana

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Twins Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.277	.267
Runs	801	788
Hits	1567	1495
Home runs	155	179
Stolen bases	94	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.41	4.52
Complete games	7	8
Saves	45	38
Walks	402	508
Strikeouts	997	981
Errors	87	105

WINS AND LOSSES

90-72 (1st in A.L. Central), 48-33 at home, 42-39 on road, 17-15 vs. A.L. East, 43-33 vs. A.L. Central, 20-16 vs. A.L. West, 10-8 vs. N.L., 25-29 vs. LH s tarters, 65-43 vs. RH starters, 36-39 on grass, 54-33 on turf, 28-24 in daytime, 62-48 at night, 22-20 in one-run games, 9-8 in extra-inning games, 0-0-0 in doubleheaders.

Ron Gardenhire's record: 184-139, 2 seasons with Twins.

Postseason: 5-9, 2 seasons with Twins.

Team record past five years: 401-406 (.497, ranks 16th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: C Henry Blanco (FA/Braves), RHP Joe Nathan (trade/Giants), IF Augie Ojeda (waivers/Cubs), RHP Carlos Silva (trade/Phillies).

Losses: RHP Mike Fetters (FA), IF Chris Gomez (FA/Blue Jays), LHP Eddie Guardado (FA/Mariners), RHP LaTroy Hawkins (FA/Cubs), IF Denny Hocking (FA), LHP Eric Milton (trade/Phillies), OF Dustin Mohr (FA/Giants), LHP Jesse Orosco (FA/Diamondbacks), C A.J. Pierzynski (trade/Giants), RHP Rick Reed (FA), LHP Kenny Rogers (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: WCCO-AM (830)
Cable TV: Victory Sports One
Website: twins.mlb.com

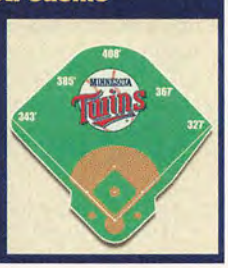
MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Rochester (International)
Class AA: New Britain (Eastern)
Class A: Fort Myers (Florida State), Quad City (Midwest)
Rookie: Elizabethton (Appalachian), Gulf Coast Twins (Gulf Coast)

The Metrodome

Turf: Artificial
Capacity: 45,423
Ticket information: 800-338-9467

Spring training: Lee County Sports Complex (Fort Myers, Fla.)
Ticket information: 800-338-9467



OUTFIELD Defensively, Minnesota's outfield reputation begins with center fielder Hunter, who has moved into the league's elite class by winning three straight Gold Gloves and leading the club in homers and RBIs two years running.

But Hunter also went through a few prolonged slumps and must continue to work on patience at the plate, especially with runners in scoring position.

In left fielder Stewart, the Twins have the consummate leadoff hitter they have lacked in recent years. Stewart can set the tone with his patience, working deep into counts and getting on base. He had a .384 on-base percentage and hit .322 after arriving in mid-July.

Stewart's biggest knock comes defensively; his arm is considered below average. But he displayed some range and has the ability to make plays, such as his catch at the wall in the playoffs against New York.

Right fielder Jones was bothered by a pulled groin in the second half but still managed to hit .304 for the season. His home run and RBI totals suffered because of the injury. In 2002, he hit 27 homers and had 85 RBIs as a leadoff hitter. Stewart's presence moved Jones down to a run-producing spot in the order, which should give him a legitimate shot at his first 100-RBI season. Jones is a free swinger, prone to striking out.

He has excellent range but is less experienced in right field, where he was moved to accommodate Stewart. He can throw runners out, but also can be off target.

Young players will provide depth behind the starters. Cuddyer and Restovich, both coming off down years, will get every chance to make the roster. Michael Ryan has shown some pop and the speedy Lew Ford also will get an opportunity. **GRADE: B**

Mark Sheldon covers the Twins for MLB.com.

Twins Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 CLE	6 CLE	7 CLE	8 DET	9	10 DET
11 DET	12 CLE	13	14 CLE	15 CLE	16 KC	17 KC
18 KC	19	20 DET	21 DET	22 DET	23 KC	24 KC
25 KC	26 TOR	27 TOR	28 TOR	29	30 ANA	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 ANA
2 ANA	3	4 SEA	5 SEA	6 SEA	7 OAK	8 OAK
9 OAK	10	11 SEA	12 SEA	13 SEA	14 CHW	15 CHW
16 CHW	17 TOR	18 TOR	19 TOR	20 CHW	21 CHW	22 CHW
23 CHW	24	25 TB	26 TB	27 TB	28 KC	29 KC
30 KC	31 TB					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 TB	2 TB	3 TB	4 DET	5 DET
6 DET	7	8 NYM	9 NYM	10 NYM	11 PHI	12 PHI
13 PHI	14	15 MON	16 MON	17 MON	18 MIL	19 MIL
20 MIL	21	22 BOS	23 BOS	24 BOS	25 MIL	26 MIL
27 MIL	28	29 CHW	30 CHW			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 CHW	2 ARI	3 ARI
4 ARI	5 KC	6 KC	7 KC	8 DET	9 DET	10 DET
11 DET	12	13 All-Star	14	15 KC	16 KC	17 KC
18 KC	19 DET	20 DET	21 TB	22 TB	23 BAL	24 BAL
25 BAL	26 CHW	27 CHW	28 CHW	29	30 BOS	31 BOS

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 BOS	2	3 ANA	4 ANA	5 ANA	6 OAK	7 OAK
8 OAK	9 OAK	10 SEA	11 SEA	12 SEA	13 CLE	14 CLE
15 CLE	16	17 NYY	18 NYY	19 NYY	20 CLE	21 CLE
22 CLE	23 TEX	24 TEX	25 TEX	26 TEX	27 ANA	28 ANA
29 ANA	30	31 TEX				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 TEX	2 TEX	3 KC	4 KC
5 KC	6 BAL	7 BAL	8 BAL	9	10 DET	11 DET
12 DET	13 DET	14 CHW	15 CHW	16 CHW	17 BAL	18 BAL
19 BAL	20 CHW	21 CHW	22 CHW	23 CLE	24 CLE	25 CLE
26 CLE	27	28 NYY	29 NYY	30 NYY		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 CLE	2 CLE
3 CLE	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Ron Gardenhire (35). Coaches: Rick Anderson (40), Steve Liddle (9), Al. Newman (62), Rick Stelmaszek (43), Scott Ullger (45), Jerry White (13).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
19	Balfour, Grant	R/R	6-2/185	26	Rochester	5-2	2.41	21/11	5	71.0	48	21	19	16	87
					Minnesota	1-0	4.15	17/1	0	26.0	23	12	12	14	30
	Bonser, Boof	R/R	6-4/230	22	Norwich	7-10	4.00	24/24	0	135.0	122	80	60	67	103
					Fresno	1-2	3.13	4/4	0	23.0	17	13	8	8	28
47	Douglass, Sean	R/R	6-6/218	24	Ottawa	10-8	3.40	27/27	0	143.0	142	67	54	58	118
					Baltimore	0-0	13.50	3/0	0	8.0	14	12	12	6	3
	Durbin, J.D.	R/R	6-0/190	22	Fort Myers	9-2	3.09	14/14	0	87.1	73	35	30	22	69
					New Britain	6-3	3.14	14/14	0	94.2	102	39	33	29	70
	Guerrier, Matt	R/R	6-3/185	25	Nashville	4-6	4.53	20/19	0	105.1	108	56	53	18	78
38	Johnson, Adam	R/R	6-2/210	24	Rochester	6-11	5.35	28/17	0	114.1	128	73	68	48	78
					Minnesota	0-1	47.25	2/0	0	1.1	8	8	7	1	0
49	Lohse, Kyle	R/R	6-2/200	25	Minnesota	14-11	4.61	33/33	0	201.0	211	107	103	45	130
25	Mays, Joe	B/R	6-1/192	28	Minnesota	8-8	6.30	31/21	0	130.0	159	92	91	39	50
	Miller, Colby	R/R	6-2/190	22	Fort Myers	9-6	2.71	26/26	0	156.0	139	58	47	43	114
59	Nakamura, Mike	R/R	5-10/178	27	Minnesota	0-0	7.82	12/0	1	12.2	20	11	11	2	14
					Rochester	6-6	2.99	43/0	2	78.1	71	28	26	28	95
36	Nathan, Joe	R/R	6-4/207	29	San Francisco	12-4	2.96	78/0	0	79.0	51	26	26	33	83
51	Pulido, Carlos	L/L	6-0/200	32	Rochester	12-5	3.56	25/25	0	149.1	145	65	59	40	87
					Minnesota	0-1	4.02	7/1	0	15.2	15	9	7	3	6
22	Radke, Brad	R/R	6-2/188	31	Minnesota	14-10	4.49	33/33	0	212.1	242	111	106	28	120
39	Rincon, Juan	R/R	5-11/192	25	Rochester	0-2	7.56	2/2	0	8.1	12	7	7	5	8
					Minnesota	5-6	3.68	58/0	0	85.2	74	38	35	38	63
33	Romero, J.C.	B/L	5-11/195	27	Minnesota	2-0	5.00	73/0	0	63.0	66	37	35	42	50
57	Santana, Johan	L/L	6-0/195	25	Minnesota	12-3	3.07	45/18	0	158.1	127	56	54	47	169
	Silva, Carlos	R/R	6-4/240	24	Philadelphia	3-1	4.43	62/1	1	87.1	92	43	43	37	48
56	Thomas, Brad	L/L	6-4/220	26	G.C. Twins	0-0	0.00	2/2	0	10.0	6	0	0	1	12
					Rochester	0-3	3.53	15/11	0	58.2	68	23	23	10	50
					Minnesota	0-1	7.71	3/0	0	4.2	6	4	4	3	2
	Wolfe, Brian	R/R	6-2/200	23	Fort Myers	2-1	2.53	7/7	0	46.1	41	15	13	6	22
					New Britain	5-7	6.42	30/10	3	82.2	111	65	59	24	42

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Blanco, Henry	R/R	5-11/224	32	Atlanta	.199	55	151	11	30	8	0	1	13	10	21	0
	Bowen, Rob	B/R	6-3/225	23	New Britain	.306	42	134	17	41	13	0	1	16	13	24	0
					Rochester	.257	30	105	14	27	7	0	6	17	11	25	0
					Minnesota	.100	7	10	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	0
24	LeCroy, Matt	R/R	6-2/225	28	Minnesota	.287	107	345	39	99	19	0	17	64	25	82	0

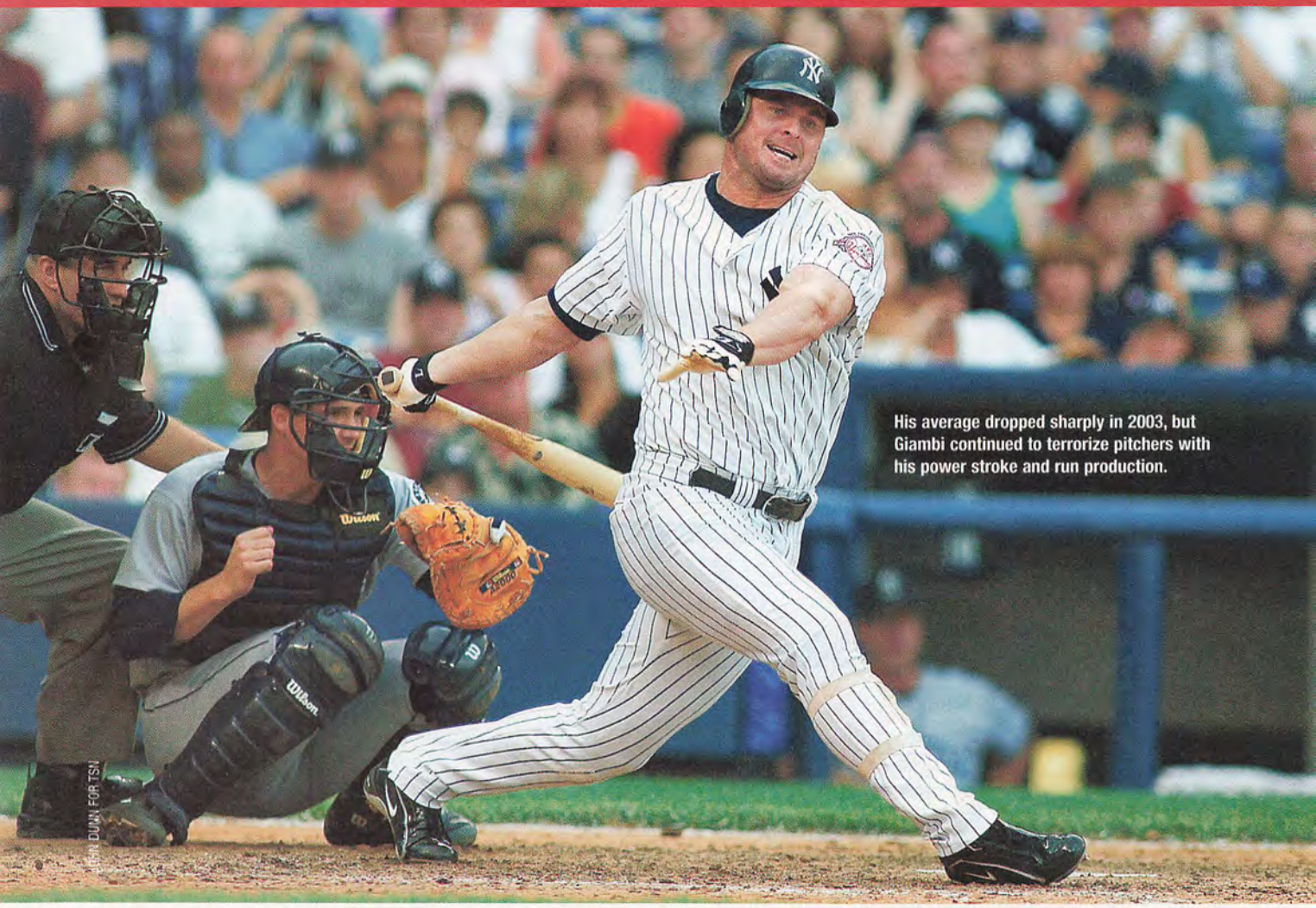
No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Bartlett, Jason	R/R	6-0/175	24	New Britain	.296	139	548	96	162	31	8	8	48	58	67	41
15	Guzman, Cristian	B/R	6-0/195	26	Minnesota	.268	143	534	78	143	15	14	3	53	30	79	18
47	Koskie, Corey	L/R	6-3/220	30	Minnesota	.292	131	469	76	137	29	2	14	69	77	113	11
16	Mientkiewicz, D.	L/R	6-2/200	29	Minnesota	.300	142	487	67	146	38	1	11	65	74	55	4
	Ojeda, Augie	B/R	5-8/175	29	Iowa	.251	106	283	42	71	10	3	2	23	34	25	4
					Chicago N.L.	.120	12	25	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	5	0
34	Punto, Nick	B/R	5-9/175	26	Scranton/W.B.	.315	25	111	19	35	7	1	0	9	7	13	7
					Philadelphia	.217	64	92	14	20	2	0	1	4	7	22	2
2	Rivas, Luis	R/R	5-11/175	24	Minnesota	.259	135	475	69	123	16	9	8	43	30	65	17
	Tiffee, Terry	S/R	6-3/210	24	New Britain	.315	139	530	77	167	31	3	14	93	31	49	4

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
5	Cuddyer, Michael	R/R	6-2/225	25	G.C. Twins	.800	2	5	1	4	0	0	1	3	1	0	0
					Rochester	.306	53	186	25	57	17	0	3	34	25	49	5
					Minnesota	.245	35	102	14	25	1	3	4	8	12	19	1
20	Ford, Lew	R/R	6-0/190	27	Rochester	.303	53	211	33	64	18	2	3	31	10	28	4
					Minnesota	.329	34	73	16	24	7	1	3	15	8	9	2
	Garbe, B.J.	R/R	6-2/195	23	Twins	.206	8	34	1	7	2	0	0	4	1	7	1
					New Britain	.178	66	225	27	40	9	1	3	21	16	60	5
48	Hunter, Torii	R/R	6-2/210	28	Minnesota	.250	154	581	83	145	31	4	26	102	50	106	6
11	Jones, Jacque	L/L	5-10/200	28	Minnesota	.304	136	517	76	157	33	1	16	69	21	105	13
	Kubel, Jason	L/R	5-11/195	21	Fort Myers	.298	116	420	56	125	20	4	5	82	48	54	4
41	Restovich, Michael	R/R	6-4/245	25	Rochester	.275	119	454	75	125	34	2	16	72	47	117	10
					Minnesota	.283	24	53	10	15	3	2	0	4	10	12	0
54	Ryan, Michael	L/R	6-0/185	26	Rochester	.225	115	408	56	92	20	4	15	60	38	89	6
					Minnesota	.393	27	61	13	24	7	0	5	13	6	12	2
23	Stewart, Shannon	R/R	6-1/210	30	Syracuse	.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
					Toronto	.294	71	303	47	89	22	2	7	35	27	30	1
					Minnesota	.322	65	270	43	87	22	0	6	38	25	36	3

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Jesse Crain, LHP Aaron Fultz, RHP Seth Greisinger, RHP Peter Munro, RHP Jeromy Palki, RHP Joe Roa, C Chris Heintz, C Brandon Marsters, C Joe Mauer, C Gabby Torres, IF Jake Mauer, IF Alex Prieto, IF Luis Rodriguez.

NEW YORK YANKEES

PROJECTED A.L. EAST FINISH: 2ND



His average dropped sharply in 2003, but Giambi continued to terrorize pitchers with his power stroke and run production.

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

By Mark Feinsand/MLB.com

The team, minus several key components of the Joe Torre era, enters the 2003 season with a much different look. The pitching staff has been re-made and the outfield features two new starters as Torre makes what could be his final run at a fifth World Series title.

Last season, the team entered spring training with loads of questions and the promise of a stiff challenge from the Boston Red Sox in the American League East Division. But the Yankees responded with 101 wins, captured their sixth straight division title and added their 39th pennant.

They fell short of their ultimate goal, however, losing to the Florida Marlins in the World Series. If Torre and the Yankees are to get back to the fall classic, some new faces must contribute in key areas.

MANAGER Over his eight New York seasons, Torre has guided the Yankees to six World Series appearances and four championships. Last season might have been Torre's finest as the Yankees captured the A.L. pennant despite a shaky bullpen, several personnel changes throughout the season and inconsistency at the back end of the starting rotation.

He also dealt with the constant distraction of owner George Steinbrenner, whose disagreements with Torre were made public several times, including the April incident in which Steinbrenner overruled his manager by sending Jose Contreras to work with the organization's pitching instructor, Billy Connors, in Tampa rather than to Class AAA, where Torre had told the pitcher he was headed.

TSNUMBER

.263

The Yankees' batting average with runners in scoring position, 10th in the A.L. But they scored more runs (877) than all but two A.L. teams.

This season will present different challenges on and off the field. The biggest change will be his own staff—Don Zimmer (retired), Rick Down (fired) and Lee Mazzilli (new Orioles manager) are gone. In their places are coaches Roy White (first base), Luis Sojo (third base) and Don Mattingly (hitting), while Willie Randolph moves from the third base coach's box to replace Zimmer as bench coach.

Torre also will have a very different team. No longer blessed with the comfort of Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens, Torre will instead rely on a group of pitchers who never have taken his team to October. Plus,

this could be the final go-around for both Torre and pitching coach Mel Stottlemyre, whose contracts expire at the end of the season. **GRADE: A-**

ROTATION Clemens retired and Pettitte signed with his hometown Astros. That leaves Mike Mussina as the ace for the first time. The righthander filled that role capably in Baltimore before coming to New York.

Mussina still is searching for that elusive 20-win season, although he has come close several times. He won at least 17 games in six of the last nine seasons. Mussina is now the staff veteran, so he must set the tone every fifth day. Last season, Mussina added a splitter to his wide arsenal and if he can combine a little luck with his ability to outthink hitters, he could be in line for 20 wins.

Kevin Brown was acquired within hours of Pettitte's departure—the Yankees parted with Jeff Weaver, two minor leaguers and cash for the five-time All-Star. Brown is coming off his first healthy season in three years, having won just 14 games despite a stellar 2.39 ERA. Unlike his Dodger days, Brown will have an offense behind him that can score runs—boding well assuming his 39-year-old body can avoid injuries.

Javier Vazquez gives the Yankees a young star, although the 27-year-old righthander still is unproven. New York must hope that Vazquez does not go through the same problems that Weaver encountered in his year and a half with the Yankees, and that Vazquez can step up as a big-game pitcher in the New York spotlight. If he can, he could be a huge acquisition.

Contreras enters his second season without controversy surrounding his spot in the rotation. After battling Weaver last spring, Contreras was banished to the bullpen, then to the minors. But the big (6-4, 224) righthander went 4-1 with a 2.56 ERA after the All-Star break, including a 3-0 mark with a 1.51 ERA in September. Contreras should be more comfortable this season.

After missing the last season and a half because of elbow surgery, Jon Lieber will step in as the fifth starter. A former 20-game winner for the Cubs, Lieber could be a nice surprise for a team that signed the righthander to a two-year contract last year, looking ahead to 2004. **GRADE: B**

BULLPEN Mariano Rivera proved in the postseason that he remains one of the preeminent closers in the game, but he cannot do it alone. The ability to get the ball to Rivera with a lead will play a big part in the team's success.

The bullpen was a revolving door in 2003 as Torre was forced to use 19 pitchers in relief. Steve Karsay's season-ending shoulder surgery left the Yankees looking for a righthanded setup man, but Antonio Osuna, Dan Miceli, Armando Benitez and Jeff Nelson were unable to get the job done consistently.

To give Torre solid late-inning options in 2004, the club signed free agents Tom Gordon and Paul Quantrill to two-year deals. Gordon could become the setup man with the durable Quanrill, who led all major leaguers with 89 appearances last season when he pitched for the Dodgers, filling a valuable middle-relief role.

The Yankees also brought back lefthander Felix Heredia, who performed well in his brief stint with the team last season and earned a two-year contract. Also re-signed was lefthander Gabe White to replace Chris Hammond, who was traded to Oakland in the offseason. **GRADE: B**

CATCHING Jorge Posada established himself as the top offensive backstop in the A.L. last season, reaching the 30-homer and 100-RBI marks for the first time in his career. The four-time All-Star also finished third in the A.L. MVP voting, a result of his season-long consistency.

Posada also improved behind the plate, where his defensive skills have been questioned. His starters have been satisfied with the way he calls games, although this season he will have to develop a relationship with Brown, Vazquez and Lieber.

John Flaherty is a competent backup. He has been a good influence on Posada, and he provides strong veteran leadership in the Yankees' clubhouse. **GRADE: A-**

INFIELD The starting infield is one of the strongest offensively in baseball: Jason Giambi, Alfonso Soriano, Derek Jeter and Aaron Boone return from last year. That said, each of these players has a weakness.

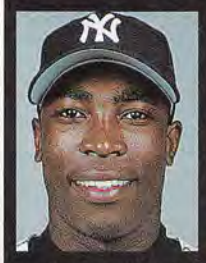
Giambi battled an eye infection and knee and hamstring problems in 2003. Though offseason surgery repaired his balky knee, the hamstring is a chronic issue for Giambi, who no longer has the luxury of Nick Johnson to spell him in the field. Giambi, whose defense is not nearly as good as Johnson's, must remain healthy enough to play 150 games if the Yankees are to keep his bat in the lineup.

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A productive season from 3B **Aaron Boone**. After spending two months and a postseason in New York, the third baseman should be more comfortable in the American League.
2. 1B **Jason Giambi**'s batting average should rebound to the .300 level. A career .302 hitter, Giambi struggled last season while battling a variety of injuries.
3. A more patient approach. Such free-swinging players as Boone and 2B **Alfonso Soriano** should benefit from new hitting coach **Don Mattingly**, who will try to develop better habits.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:



Gary Sheffield is a great addition. He gives them another tremendous run producer. ... Aaron Boone struggled and got off to a slow start with New York last year, but in the long run, he's going to be a great addition to the club. ... Alfonso Soriano needs to get back to being the hitter he was in 2002. Last season, he changed his stance, started leaning over the plate more to take the breaking ball away from pitchers. As a result, he got so screwed up, he couldn't handle a fastball. ... Mike Mussina is as steady as any pitcher in baseball, and when he's on, he's as tough as anybody. The problem is that he's running out of pitches to add to his repertoire, since he now throws seven or eight. ... Derek Jeter is one of the three best shortstops to play in the majors in the last 50 years. He's as clutch as clutch gets. ... Bernie Williams' best days are probably behind him, but I wouldn't be ready to get rid of him.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Kenny Lofton, CF	**5**
The club now has a true leadoff hitter.	
2. Derek Jeter, SS	**7**
The captain also is the most consistent hitter.	
3. Jason Giambi, 1B	**6**
Out to show he is still a .300 hitter.	
4. Gary Sheffield, RF	**7**
Has his biggest chance on the biggest stage.	
5. Jorge Posada, C	**5**
Looking to repeat MVP-type season.	
6. Hideki Matsui, LF	**6**
Will a year under his belt make him better?	
7. Bernie Williams, DH	**6**
Getting older, but he still is a clutch hitter.	
8. Alfonso Soriano, 2B	**6**
Needs to get back to the basics.	
9. Aaron Boone, 3B	**5**
He can't live off the ALCS home run forever.	
Starters	
1. Mike Mussina, RH	**6**
Still looking for his first 20-win season.	
2. Kevin Brown, RH	**6**
Should benefit from better offensive support.	
3. Javier Vazquez, RH	**7**
This isn't Montreal anymore. Will it matter?	
4. Jose Contreras, RH	**6**
No competition this year—he's in the rotation.	
5. Jon Lieber, RH	**5**
A nice fit to fill out the rotation—if healthy.	
Closer	
Mariano Rivera, RH	**7**
Proved in playoffs he still is dominating.	
Total	**90**

Yankees Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.271	.267
Runs	877	788
Hits	1518	1495
Home runs	230	179
Stolen bases	98	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.02	4.52
Complete games	8	8
Saves	49	38
Walks	375	508
Strikeouts	1119	981
Errors	114	105

WINS AND LOSSES

101-61 (1st in A.L. East), 50-32 at home, 51-29 on road, 47-29 vs. A.L. East, 23-9 vs. A.L. Central, 18-18 vs. A.L. West, 13-5 vs. N.L., 26-11 vs. LH starters, 75-50 vs. RH starters, 83-56 on grass, 18-5 on turf, 35-26 in daytime, 66-35 at night, 21-14 in one-run games, 6-6 in extra-inning games, 2-0-2 in doubleheaders.

Joe Torre's record: 786-506, 8 seasons with Yankees; 1,680-1,509, 22 seasons (Mets, Braves, Cardinals, Yankees).

Postseason: 66-33, 8 seasons with Yankees; 66-36, 9 seasons (Braves, Yankees); 4 World Series championships (1996, 1998, 1999, 2000).

Team record past five years: 484-322 (.600, ranks 2nd in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Kevin Brown (trade/Dodgers), IF Miguel Cairo (FA/Cardinals), 1B Tony Clark (FA/Mets), RHP Tom Gordon (FA/White Sox), OF Kenny Lofton (FA/Cubs), RHP Paul Quantrill (FA/Dodgers), OF Gary Sheffield (FA/Braves), RHP Javier Vazquez (trade/Expos).

Losses: LHP Randy Choate (trade/Expos), RHP Roger Clemens (retired), OF David Dellucci (FA/Rangers), OF Karim Garcia (FA), LHP Chris Hammond (trade/Athletics), 1B Nick Johnson (trade/Expos), RHP Jeff Nelson (FA), RHP Antonio Osuna (FA), LHP Andy Pettitte (FA/Astros), OF Juan Rivera (trade/Expos), RHP Jeff Weaver (trade/Dodgers), LHP David Wells (FA/Padres).

MEDIA

Radio: WCBS-AM (880)
Cable TV: Yankee Entertainment and Sports Network
Website: yankees.mlb.com

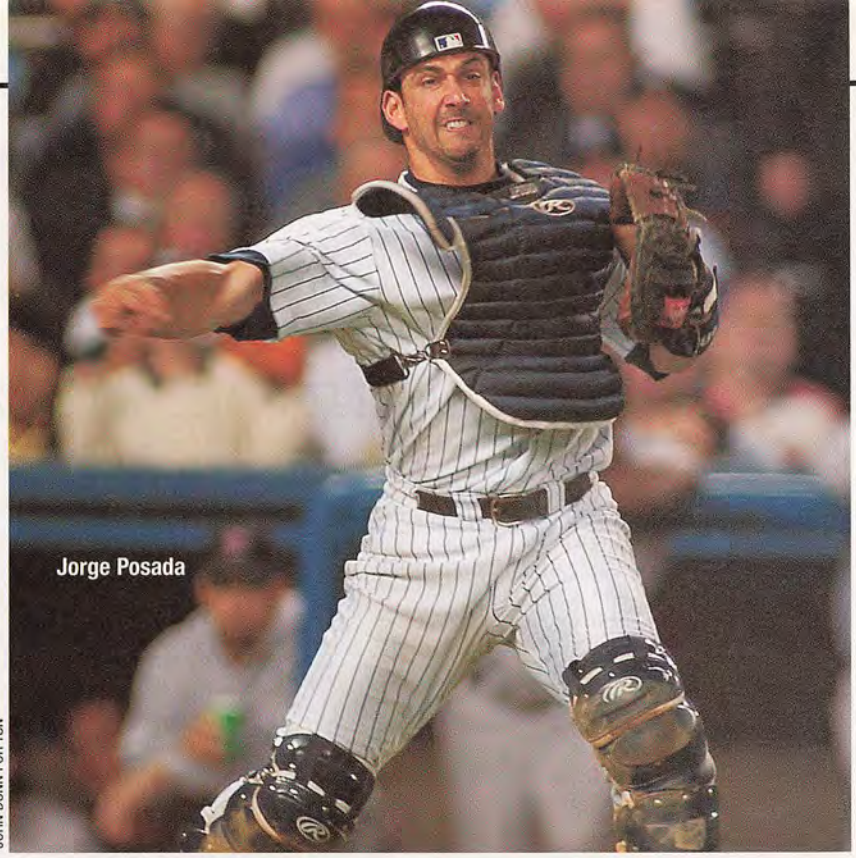
MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Columbus (International)
Class AA: Trenton (Eastern)
Class A: Battle Creek (Midwest), Staten Island (New York-Pennsylvania), Tampa (Florida State)
Rookie: Gulf Coast Yankees (Gulf Coast)

Yankee Stadium

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 57,478
Ticket information: 212-307-1212, 718-293-6013

Spring training: Legends Field (Tampa, Fla.)
Ticket information: 813-879-2244, 813-287-8844



Jorge Posada

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Soriano is coming off his second consecutive season with more than 35 homers and 35 steals, but a dreadful postseason left people wondering whether the 26-year-old could fine-tune his approach at the plate. The presence of new hitting coach Mattingly should help Soriano.

Jeter rebounded from a subpar 2002 by hitting .324 in 2003, barely missing out on the A.L. batting crown. After missing the first six weeks with a dislocated shoulder, Jeter returned and was a steady presence at the top of the lineup. Like Giambi, Jeter must stay away from injuries, but the hard-nosed team captain rarely admits to being hurt.

Boone provided the moment of the year for New York fans—the dramatic, pennant-clinching home run against Boston. But the rest of Boone's stay in the Big Apple has been spotty. He struggled to adjust to A.L. pitching after making the All-Star team in the N.L. and his normally superior defense at third base was shaky in the postseason. But his experience from last season should help him in his first full year in the A.L.

Enrique Wilson and Miguel Cairo were signed to back up the infield. Both players have a wide range of flexibility, giving Torre several options in the late innings.
GRADE: B+

OUTFIELD The Yankees did considerable restructuring in the outfield, making moves that left second-year left fielder Hideki Matsui as the group's senior member. For the first time in more than a decade, Bernie Williams will not be roaming center field in the Bronx.

The team added Gary Sheffield and Kenny Lofton to its outfield picture, converting Williams into the team's designated hitter. Williams, who lost a step last season after undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery, likely will see some time in the outfield, but the majority of his at-bats will come as the DH.

Replacing Williams is Lofton, who at age 36 signed for two years. Like Williams, Lofton lacks a strong throwing arm, but the coaches believe he can cover more ground. Lofton also gives the club a more conventional leadoff hitter, allowing it to move Soriano down in the lineup.

Sheffield gives the Yankees a big bopper in right field, a position filled by a rotation of David Dellucci, Karim Garcia and Ruben Sierra over the second half of 2003. Sheffield has posted splendid power numbers in recent years, topping 30 homers in five of the last eight seasons. Sheffield gives the Yankees a force in right field for the first time since Paul O'Neill's retirement.

Matsui enters his sophomore season with a better idea about playing in the majors. He had an impressive rookie campaign, driving in 106 runs while playing solid defense in left field. His familiarity with the league should result in an increase from his 16 home runs, although he will not match the 50 he hit in Japan.

Sierra was re-signed to serve as a backup outfielder/DH and give Torre a switch-hitting power bat off the bench. Cairo also can play outfield. **GRADE: B**

Mark Feinsand covers the Yankees for MLB.com.

Yankees Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30 † TB	31 † TB	1	2	3
4	5	6 TB	7 TB	8 CHW	9 CHW	10 CHW
11 CHW	12	13 TB	14 TB	15	16 BOS	17 BOS
18 BOS	19 BOS	20 CHW	21 CHW	22 CHW	23 BOS	24 BOS
25 BOS	26	27 OAK	28 OAK	29 OAK	30 KC	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 KC
2 KC	3	4 OAK	5 OAK	6 OAK	7 SEA	8 SEA
9 SEA	10	11 ANA	12 ANA	13 ANA	14 SEA	15 SEA
16 SEA	17	18 ANA	19 ANA	20 ANA	21 TEX	22 TEX
23 TEX	24	25 BAL	26 BAL	27 BAL	28 TB	29 TB
30 TB	31					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 BAL	2 BAL	3 BAL	4 TEX	5 TEX
6 TEX	7	8 COL	9 COL	10 COL	11 SD	12 SD
13 SD	14	15 ARI	16 ARI	17 ARI	18 LA	19 LA
20 LA	21	22 BAL	23 BAL	24 BAL	25 NYM	26 NYM
27 NYM	28	29 BOS	30 BOS			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 BOS	2 NYM	3 NYM
4 NYM	5 DET	6 DET	7 DET	8 TB	9 TB	10 TB
11 TB	12	13 All-Star	14	15 DET	16 DET	17 DET
18 DET	19 TB	20 TB	21 TOR	22 TOR	23 BOS	24 BOS
25 BOS	26 TOR	27 TOR	28 TOR	29 BAL	30 BAL	31 BAL

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 BAL	2	3 OAK	4 OAK	5 OAK	6 TOR	7 TOR
8 TOR	9 TOR	10 TEX	11 TEX	12 TEX	13 SEA	14 SEA
15 SEA	16	17 MIN	18 MIN	19 MIN	20 ANA	21 ANA
22 ANA	23 CLE	24 CLE	25 CLE	26 TOR	27 TOR	28 TOR
29 TOR	30	31 CLE				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 CLE	2 CLE	3 BAL	4 BAL
5 BAL	6 TB	7 TB	8 TB	9 TB	10 BAL	11 BAL
12 BAL	13 KC	14 KC	15 KC	16	17 BOS	18 BOS
19 BOS	20	21 TOR	22 TOR	23 TOR	24 BOS	25 BOS
26 BOS	27	28 MIN	29 MIN	30 MIN		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 TOR	2 TOR
3 TOR	4	5	6	7	8	9

† Tokyo, Japan

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Joe Torre (6). Coaches: Don Mattingly (23), Rich Monteleone, Willie Randolph (30), Luis Sojo, Mel Stottlemyre (34), Roy White.

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	Brown, Kevin	R/R	6-4/200	39	Los Angeles	14-9	2.39	32/32	0	211.0	184	67	56	56	185
52	Contreras, Jose	R/R	6-4/224	32	Columbus	2-0	1.20	3/3	0	15.0	10	2	2	2	18
					Trenton	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	1.2	1	0	0	2	3
					Tampa	0-0	4.50	1/1	0	4.0	4	2	2	3	5
					Staten Island	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	7.0	2	0	0	0	15
					New York A.L.	7-2	3.30	18/9	0	71.0	52	27	26	30	72
	DePaula, Jorge	R/R	6-1/160	25	Louisville	0-0	6.17	10/0	0	11.2	15	10	8	7	8
					Columbus	10-11	4.35	27/27	0	167.2	168	90	81	57	125
					New York A.L.	0-0	0.79	4/1	0	11.1	3	1	1	1	7
	Gordon, Tom	R/R	5-10/190	36	Chicago A.L.	7-6	3.16	66/0	12	74.0	57	29	26	31	91
76	Graman, Alex	L/L	6-4/200	26	G.C. Yankees	8-9	3.65	28/28	0	143.0	120	64	58	58	111
					Columbus	9-10	4.48	26/26	0	142.2	135	77	71	63	110
	Henn, Sean	R/L	6-5/200	22	G.C. Yankees	1-1	2.25	2/1	0	8.0	5	3	2	3	10
					Tampa	4-3	3.61	16/16	0	72.1	69	31	29	37	52
45	Heredia, Felix	L/L	6-0/180	28	Cincinnati	5-2	3.00	57/0	1	72.0	61	27	24	28	41
					New York A.L.	0-1	1.20	12/0	0	15.0	13	5	2	5	4
31	Karsay, Steve	R/R	6-3/215	32				Did Not Play							
	Lieber, Jon	L/R	6-2/230	33	Tampa	0-0	13.50	2/2	0	2.0	5	3	3	0	4
					G.C. Yankees	0-0	4.50	2/2	0	6.0	8	3	3	0	6
	Marsonek, Sam	R/R	6-6/225	25	Columbus	4-4	4.84	54/2	18	83.2	84	52	45	31	57
35	Mussina, Mike	L/R	6-2/185	35	New York A.L.	17-8	3.40	31/31	0	214.2	192	86	81	40	195
	Prinz, Bret	R/R	6-2/216	26	Arizona	0-0	0.00	1/0	0	1.0	1	0	0	1	1
					Lancaster	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	2
					El Paso	0-0	4.50	2/0	0	2.0	3	1	1	1	2
					Tucson	0-1	6.00	10/0	0	12.0	19	9	8	3	7
					New York A.L.	0-0	18.00	2/0	0	2.0	6	4	4	3	2
					Columbus	0-1	8.03	10/0	0	12.1	20	11	11	1	13
	Proctor, Scott	R/R	6-1/200	27	Jacksonville	1-2	1.00	17/0	0	27.0	20	6	3	7	24
					Las Vegas	4-2	3.66	24/0	1	39.1	35	17	16	13	35
					Columbus	2-0	1.42	10/0	0	19.0	13	3	3	3	26
	Quantrill, Paul	L/R	6-1/195	35	Los Angeles	2-5	1.75	89/0	1	77.1	61	18	15	15	44
	Ramirez, Ramon	R/R	5-11/170	22	Tampa	2-8	5.21	14/14	0	74.1	88	47	43	20	70
					Trenton	1-1	1.69	4/3	0	21.1	18	8	4	8	21
					Columbus	0-1	4.50	2/1	0	6.0	5	5	3	1	5
42	Rivera, Mariano	R/R	6-2/170	34	New York A.L.	5-2	1.66	64/0	40	70.2	61	15	13	10	63
	Sierra, Eduardo	R/R	6-3/185	21	Kane County	3-5	2.09	51/0	17	60.1	46	23	14	24	52
	Vazquez, Javier	R/R	6-2/205	27	Montreal	13-12	3.24	34/34	0	230.2	198	93	83	57	241
	Wang, Chien-ming	R/R	6-3/200	23	G.C. Yankees	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	3.0	2	0	0	0	2
					Trenton	7-6	4.65	21/21	0	122.0	143	71	63	32	84
36	White, Gabe	L/L	6-2/204	32	Cincinnati	3-0	3.93	34/0	0	34.1	36	15	15	6	23
					Louisville	0-0	9.00	1/1	0	1.0	2	1	1	1	0
					G.C. Yankees	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	1.0	0	0	0	1	1
					Tampa	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	.2	1	0	0	0	0
					Trenton	0-0	7.71	2/2	0	2.1	3	2	2	0	2
					New York A.L.	2-1	4.38	12/0	0	12.1	8	7	6	2	6

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
17	Flaherty, John	R/R	6-1/200	36	New York A.L.	.267	40	105	16	28	8	0	4	14	4	19	0
20	Posada, Jorge	B/R	6-2/205	32	New York A.L.	.281	142	481	83	135	24	0	30	101	93	110	2

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
19	Boone, Aaron	R/R	6-2/200	31	Cincinnati	.273	106	403	61	110	19	3	18	65	35	74	15
					New York A.L.	.254	54	189	31	48	13	0	6	31	11	30	8
	Cairo, Miguel	R/R	6-1/208	29	Memphis	.231	3	13	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	0
					St. Louis	.245	92	261	41	64	15	2	5	32	13	30	4
	Clark, Tony	B/R	6-7/245	31	St. Lucie	.250	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
					New York N.L.	.232	125	254	29	59	13	0	16	43	24	73	0
25	Giambi, Jason	L/R	6-3/230	33	New York A.L.	.250	156	535	97	134	25	0	41	107	129	140	2
	Henson, Drew	R/R	6-5/220	24	Columbus	.234	133	483	60	113	40	2	14	78	32	122	8
					New York A.L.	.125	5	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
2	Jeter, Derek	R/R	6-3/195	29	Trenton	.444	5	18	2	8	1	1	0	5	3	0	0
					New York A.L.	.324	119	482	87	156	25	3	10	52	43	88	11
	Phillips, Andy	R/R	6-0/205	26	Columbus	.209	17	67	7	14	4	0	2	5	5	17	0
	Seguignol, Fern.	B/R	6-5/230	29	Tampa	.385	3	13	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
					Columbus	.341	106	402	78	137	28	1	28	87	34	81	0
					New York A.L.	.143	5	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
12	Soriano, Alfonso	R/R	6-1/160	26	New York A.L.	.290	156	682	114	198	36	5	38	91	38	130	35
	Tejeda, Ferdin	R/R	5-11/170	21	G.C. Yankees	.393	8	28	4	11	2	0	0	3	2	4	1
					Tampa	.295	51	217	33	64	9	5	0	20	6	38	4
14	Wilson, Enrique	B/R	5-11/195	30	New York A.L.	.230	63	135	18	31	9	0	3	15	7	14	3

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Crosby, Bubba	L/L	5-11/185	27	Las Vegas	.361	76	277	57	100	24	8	12	57	25	47	8
					Los Angeles	.083	9	12	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
					Columbus	.302	16	63	9	19	2	1	2	8	6	12	3
	Lofton, Kenny	L/L	6-0/180	36	Pittsburgh	.277	84	339	58	94	19	4	9	26	28	29	18
					Chicago N.L.	.327	56	208	39	68	13	4	3	20	18	22	12
55	Matsui, Hideki	L/R	6-2/210	29	New York A.L.	.287	163	623	82	179	42	1	16	106	63	86	2
	Sheffield, Gary	R/R	6-0/205	35	Atlanta	.330	155	576	126	190	37	2	39	132	86	55	18
	Vento, Mike	R/R	6-0/195	25	Trenton	.303	81	314	46	95	19	3	9	56	22	52	4
					Columbus	.304	51	184	28	56	14	1	5	31	14	36	1
51	Williams, Bernie	B/R	6-2/205	35	Trenton	.333	5	15	4	5	2	0	0	4	4	1	0
					New York A.L.	.263	119	445	77	117	19	1	15	64	71	61	5

OAKLAND ATHLETICS

PROJECTED A.L. WEST FINISH: 2ND

By Kent Schacht/MLB.com

The common denominators in Oakland's run of four consecutive playoff appearances were outstanding starting pitching and a constant influx of talent filling the clubhouse around Tim Hudson, Mark Mulder and Barry Zito.

So goes life for a small-market team that competes with the best of the big boys. On the strength of their Big Three pitchers, the A's have won the A.L. West Division in three of the last four seasons, including a 96-66 title run in 2003. But each of those seasons ended miserably in the first round of the playoffs.

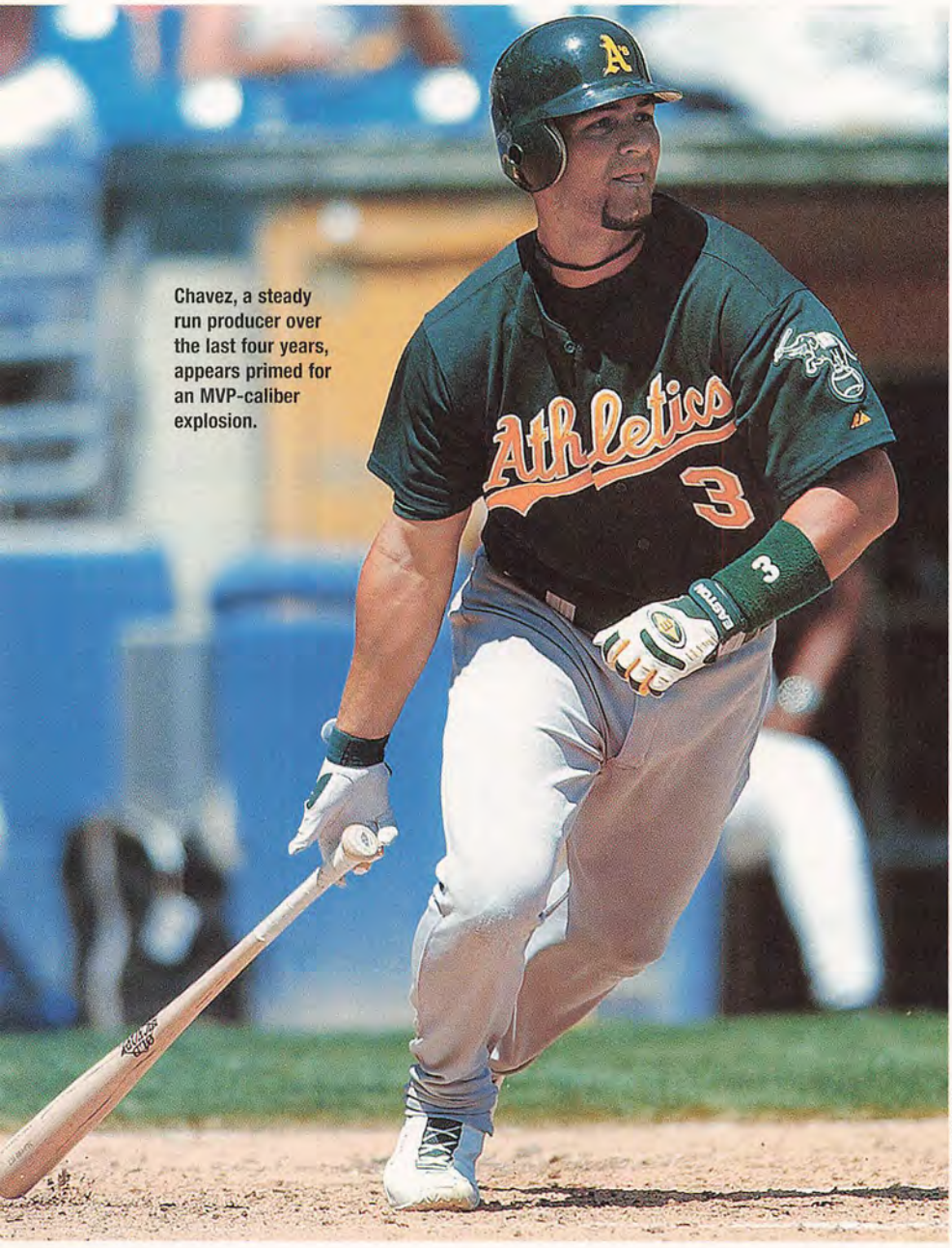
General manager Billy Beane likes to say the playoffs are a crapshoot, that he builds teams to get there and what happens in the postseason is beyond his control.

Entering the 2004 season, Beane apparently did not think the club that came within one base hit of the A.L. Championship Series was good enough to get there again. He made a bevy of moves that gives the supporting cast behind Mulder, Hudson and Zito a facelift once again.

Foremost on Beane's list was a wholesale change of the outfield. Beane is hoping the all-around skills of center fielder Mark Kotsay, who was picked up in a November trade, will go a long way toward getting more support for the pitchers—both offensively and defensively. Another addition, Bobby Kielty, probably will see a lot of time in one of the outfield corners.

The pitching staff also will be working with new catcher Damian Miller, who helped lead the Diamondbacks to a World Series title in 2001. Miller, a career .262 hitter, will replace Ramon Hernandez and keep the spot warm until prospect Jeremy Brown is ready.

The bullpen has been reconstructed after the departure of Keith Foulke. Newcomer Arthur Rhodes will get first shot at the closer opening.



Chavez, a steady run producer over the last four years, appears primed for an MVP-caliber explosion.

DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

MANAGER Rookie skipper Ken Macha received high marks for his efforts in guiding the A's to the A.L. West crown. It was not easy.

TSNUMBER
.327
The team's on-base percentage in 2003, its lowest since 1993 and 10th in the A.L. last year. Moves have been made to improve that figure.

Macha had to deal with a messy outfield situation and injuries to two of his key players—right fielder Jermaine Dye and Mulder. He still managed to hold the ship together.

He was able to keep the A's from repeating their usual early season stumble and, like predecessor Art Howe, pushed all the right buttons with August and September winning streaks that propelled the A's to the division title.

This season may prove to be more of a challenge. Macha will be without pitching coach Rick Peterson, who had significant control of the staff last season. Former A's pitcher Curt Young will take over as a first-year pitching coach, and he will need lots of direction from Macha.

The loss of former MVP shortstop Miguel Tejada also will make it necessary for the manager to explore different strategies to generate run production. After last season's surprising offensive struggles, Macha says

the team might be playing a little more small ball. **GRADE: A-**

ROTATION As long as the A's have Hudson, Mulder and Zito, they will be tough to beat. The three aces did not skip a beat in 2003, combining for a 45-28 record, 95 starts and a 3.03 ERA.

Ranging in age from 25 to 28, they are entering the prime of their careers and should be together for at least two more seasons. Even with Mulder missing the final five weeks of 2003, the Big Three made 59 percent of Oakland's starts, nice insurance against long losing streaks.

Hudson, the elder statesman, was the best of the three, finishing with a 16-7 record and a 2.70 ERA.

Zito had a rough post-Cy Young campaign, dancing around the .500 mark for much of the season. But his stuff was not all that different from 2003, when he was a sparkling 23-5. He had several tough no-decisions and failed to receive much support from the offense.

Mulder walked off the mound in Boston on August 21 with a sore hip and did not pitch again after being diagnosed with a stress fracture in his leg. He was 15-9 at the time and should be ready to pick up where he left off.

Oakland's trade for lefthander Mark Redman could be a bigger deal than most people think. The A's rolled the last two seasons when their No. 4 starter—Cory Lidle or Ted Lilly—got hot. Redman was a big part of Florida's title run in 2003 and will be a solid No. 4 with the A's.

Righthander Rich Harden could be one of the best No. 5 starters in the league. He started out with a 3-0 record and a 1.33 ERA in his first four big-league starts, but faded down the stretch. The talent is there for a big 2004 encore. **GRADE: A**

BULLPEN Foulke is gone, meaning that Oakland will have its fourth closer in as many seasons. This year's honors go to lefthander Arthur Rhodes, who was a premier setup man in Seattle. The A's obviously believe he can continue to get big outs—this year in the ninth inning.

After being successful the last four seasons with a youngster (Jason Isringhausen) and two reclamation projects (Billy Koch and Foulke) at closer, Beane is confident Rhodes will fill the bill. Rhodes will be set up by holdovers Jim Mecir and Ricardo Rincon, with Chad Bradford and newcomer Chris Hammond holding down the fort in the sixth through eighth innings.

Mecir, a righthander, and Hammond, a lefty, give Macha options. Both are effective against hitters from both sides of the plate. Rincon, the only free agent the A's were able to retain, has been a reliable setup man for the last two seasons. **GRADE: C**

CATCHING Miller is known as a handler of pitchers, a reputation predecessor Hernandez also enjoyed with Zito, Mulder and Hudson. His average and power numbers have dropped over the last two seasons, which is part of the reason he will be playing for his third team in as many seasons.

Beane expects Miller to catch about four days a week, with backup Adam Melhuse getting the remainder of the starts. The A's like Melhuse's bat—he had a .299 average in 40 games last season—but he needs to improve his game-calling skills and defense. Scott Hatteberg is Oakland's emergency catcher. **GRADE: C-**

INFIELD After getting spectacular defense from the left side in recent years, the A's will be crossing their fingers in 2004. Three-time Gold Glove winner Eric Chavez returns at third, but Tejada's shortstop position will be manned by an untested rookie.

Bobby Crosby will be asked to fill some big shoes. He was brought up last September and did not have a hit in 12 big-league at-bats. But the 24-year-old has had success in his three professional seasons, earning his call-up with a .308 average at Class AAA Sacramento. Crosby has good range and a good demeanor, which he will need while operating under an intense spotlight.

Chavez, entering the final year of his contract, will find himself hounded by constant questions about his future plans. But don't expect the questions to bother the San Diego native, who seems immune to pressure. Expectations are high that he might finally attain the .300/100/40 season that has been predicted.

Mark Ellis is a solid second baseman who may not have the best offensive statistics, but he earns praise from coaches, teammates and management as a guy who "does the little things." Ellis saw his average drop 24 points in his sophomore season, but he never complained while being shifted around the batting order, from the leadoff spot to sixth to ninth.

Hatteberg, who will man first base for the third consecutive year, continues to improve defensively. He struggled at the plate last sea-

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A big season from RF **Jermaine Dye**. With **Miguel Tejada**'s departure, the A's will need one from their highest-paid player. Last season, Dye suffered an early knee injury and never was the same.
2. RHP **Tim Hudson**'s first 20-win season. Hudson has pitched as well as anyone the past two years, but has been victimized by bad luck and poor run support. Look for that to change in '04.
3. 3B **Eric Chavez** to finally realize his offensive potential. If anyone can brush past the distraction of being a potential free agent, it's Chavez, who is capable of 40 home runs and a .300 average.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

They have a new pitching coach (Curt Young), but with that staff being as strong as it is, why change a strength? They will have a very similar philosophy. The pitchers run the show more than the coach there, anyway. ... The new shortstop, Bobby Crosby, is talented but definitely unproven. ... To replace a starting catcher is not an easy thing in this game, and Ramon Hernandez was a catcher on a championship club. ... Mark Kotsay makes them much better in center defensively, but they're really counting on him to produce more at the plate than he did last year in San Diego. ... Jermaine Dye will be important for them. After his knee surgery, he was unable to handle anything hard on the inside of the plate, but if he ever gets healthy, he can be scary. ... Oakland's main question mark is Mark Mulder's recovery. I mean, this guy was the best of all three of those starters for a while last year.

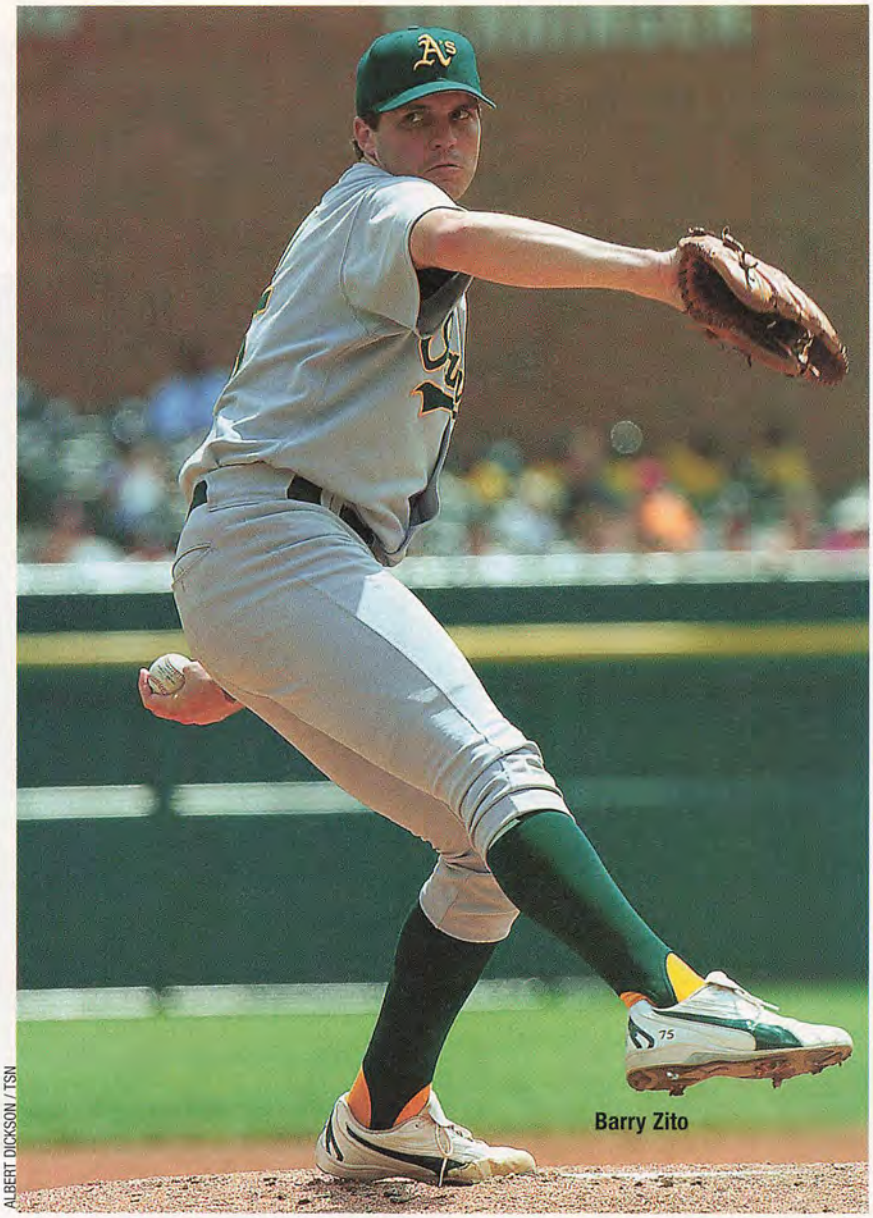
GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Mark Kotsay, CF	**6**
Finally, a legitimate leadoff hitter.	
2. Mark Ellis, 2B	**4**
Hopes to rebound after sophomore slump.	
3. Eric Chavez, 3B	**7**
Could be a .300-40-100 guy.	
4. Jermaine Dye, RF	**6**
Can he return to pre-injury form?	
5. Erubiel Durazo, DH	**4**
A's need better power numbers from him.	
6. Bobby Kielty, LF	**5**
A new face in Oakland's revamped outfield.	
7. Scott Hatteberg, 1B	**5**
Patient hitter who needs to produce more.	
8. Damian Miller, C	**4**
Offensive stats have dropped two years in a row.	
9. Bobby Crosby, SS	**5**
A's like his hard-nosed approach to the game.	
Starters	
1. Tim Hudson, RH	**8**
A bulldog who is the leader of this staff.	
2. Mark Mulder, LH	**7**
Leg injury derailed his big 2003 season.	
3. Barry Zito, LH	**7**
When his curve is on, he can be masterful.	
4. Mark Redman, LH	**6**
Helps make rotation one of baseball's deepest.	
5. Rich Harden, RH	**6**
Could be as good as the Big Three.	
Closer	
Arthur Rhodes, LH	**6**
Nasty stuff, but does he have the right mentality?	
Total	**86**

son, seeing his average drop from a career-high .280 in 2002 to .253. But he did get on base—exactly what the A's want from him.

Erubiel Durazo will play first when needed and is the primary designated hitter. Durazo, the prize offseason acquisition last winter, was disappointing. After being called his "Holy Grail" by Beane, Durazo hit only .259 and did not provide the middle-of-the-order power Oakland expected. If he has a rough start in 2004, do not be surprised if Dye is shifted to DH and Eric Byrnes gets more playing time in the outfield. **GRADE: B-**



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Barry Zito

A's Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.254	.267
Runs	768	788
Hits	1398	1495
Home runs	176	179
Stolen bases	48	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	3.63	4.52
Complete games	16	8
Saves	48	38
Walks	499	508
Strikeouts	1018	981
Errors	107	105

WINS AND LOSSES

96-66 (1st in A.L. West), 57-24 at home, 39-42 on road, 28-13 vs. A.L. East, 25-20 vs. A.L. Central, 34-24 vs. A.L. West, 9-9 vs. N.L., 26-19 vs. LH starters, 70-47 vs. RH starters, 91-55 on grass, 5-11 on turf, 39-24 in daytime, 57-42 at night, 25-20 in one-run games, 10-4 in extra-inning games, 0-1-0 in doubleheaders.
Ken Macha's record: 96-66, 1 season with Athletics.
Postseason: 2-3, 1 season with Athletics.
Team record past five years: 479-330 (.592, ranks 3rd in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: LHP Chris Hammond (trade/Yankees), OF Bobby Kielty (trade/Blue Jays), OF Mark Kotsay (trade/Padres), C Damian Miller (trade/Cubs), LHP Mark Redman (trade/Marlins), LHP Arthur Rhodes (FA/Mariners) .
Losses: C Michael Barrett (trade/Cubs), RHP Keith Foulke (FA/Red Sox), OF Jose Guillen (FA/Angels), LHP John Halama (FA/Devil Rays), C Ramon Hernandez (trade/Padres), LHP Ted Lilly (trade/Blue Jays), OF Terrence Long (trade/Padres), RHP Mike Neu (trade/Marlins), OF Chris Singleton (FA), RHP Steve Sparks (FA/Diamondbacks), SS Miguel Tejada (FA/Orioles).

MEDIA

Radio: KFRC-AM (610)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Bay Area
Website: oaklandathletics.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Sacramento (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Midland (Texas)
Class A: Kane County (Midwest), Modesto (California), Vancouver (Northwest)
Rookie: Scottsdale A's (Arizona)

Network Associates Coliseum

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 43,662
Ticket information: 510-638-4627

Spring training: Phoenix Stadium (Phoenix, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 602-392-0074

OUTFIELD After watching six outfielders split time last season—none of them providing much production or spectacular defense—Beane got out his drawing board and brought in Kotsay and Kielty, letting disgruntled Terrence Long, Chris Singleton and Jose Guillen leave.

Kotsay's offensive numbers have not lived up to his contract or potential, but even if he maintains his .281 career average and low power numbers, he will drastically improve Oakland's defense.

The A's hope Dye, the club's highest-paid player at $11 million, can be a productive everyday outfielder after two injury-plagued seasons. He has a great arm and a productive bat. The A's desperately need a big season out of him. After struggling through leg and shoulder injuries the last two seasons, Dye sputtered to a .172 average in 65 games last year and hit only four homers. If he can even sniff the 26-homer, 106-RBI numbers he posted in 2001, there will be many smiles in the East Bay.

Kielty is a patient hitter known for his ability to draw walks. He should compete with Byrnes for playing time in left. In 2003, Byrnes combined a spectacular first half with a nightmarish second half that included a 7-for-74 slump. He always goes all out in the field, even if it sometimes does not look pretty.

Billy McMillon, who was a pleasant surprise after being called up from Sacramento in late May, also will get a look. **GRADE: C+**

Kent Schacht covers the Athletics for MLB.com.

Athletics Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 TEX	6 TEX	7 TEX	8	9 SEA	10 SEA
11 SEA	12	13 TEX	14 TEX	15 TEX	16 ANA	17 ANA
18 ANA	19 SEA	20 SEA	21 SEA	22 SEA	23 ANA	24 ANA
25 ANA	26	27 NYY	28 NYY	29 NYY	30 TB	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 TB
2 TB	3	4 NYY	5 NYY	6 NYY	7 MIN	8 MIN
9 MIN	10	11 DET	12 DET	13 DET	14 KC	15 KC
16 KC	17	18 DET	19 DET	20 DET	21 KC	22 KC
23 KC	24	25 BOS	26 BOS	27 BOS	28 CLE	29 CLE
30 CLE	31					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 CHW	2 CHW	3 TOR	4 TOR	5 TOR
6 TOR	7 CIN	8 CIN	9 CIN	10	11 PIT	12 PIT
13 PIT	14	15 STL	16 STL	17 STL	18 CHC	19 CHC
20 CHC	21 ANA	22 ANA	23 ANA	24 ANA	25 SF	26 SF
27 SF	28	29 ANA	30 ANA			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 ANA	2 SF	3 SF
4 SF	5	6 BOS	7 BOS	8 BOS	9 CLE	10 CLE
11 CLE	12	13 All-Star	14	15 CHW	16 CHW	17 CHW
18 CHW	19 TOR	20 TOR	21 SEA	22 SEA	23 TEX	24 TEX
25 TEX	26 SEA	27 SEA	28 SEA	29 TEX	30 TEX	31 TEX

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 TEX	2	3 NYY	4 NYY	5 NYY	6 MIN	7 MIN
8 MIN	9 MIN	10 DET	11 DET	12 DET	13 KC	14 KC
15 KC	16 BAL	17 BAL	18 BAL	19	20 TB	21 TB
22 TB	23 BAL	24 BAL	25 BAL	26 BAL	27 TB	28 TB
29 TB	30	31 CHW				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 CHW	2 CHW	3 TOR	4 TOR
5 TOR	6 BOS	7 BOS	8 BOS	9	10 CLE	11 CLE
12 CLE	13 TEX	14 TEX	15 TEX	16 TEX	17 SEA	18 SEA
19 SEA	20	21 TEX	22 TEX	23 TEX	24 ANA	25 ANA
26 ANA	27 SEA	28 SEA	29 SEA	30 SEA		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 ANA	2 ANA
3 ANA	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Ken Macha (39). Coaches: Brad Fischer (35), Bob Geren (52), Dave Hudgens (48), Chris Speier, Ron Washington (38), Curt Young.

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
53	Bradford, Chad	R/R	6-5/203	29	Oakland	7-4	3.04	72/0	2	77.0	67	28	26	30	62
	Brooks, Frank	L/L	6-1/200	25	Reading	3-4	2.30	34/0	9	58.2	40	16	15	13	71
					Altoona	0-0	7.71	1/0	0	2.1	3	2	2	0	4
					Nashville	2-0	2.54	16/0	0	28.1	22	9	8	11	22
	Duchscherer, J.	R/R	6-3/190	26	Sacramento	14-2	3.25	24/23	0	155.0	151	59	56	18	117
					Oakland	1-1	3.31	4/3	0	16.1	17	7	6	3	15
	Hammond, Chris	L/L	6-1/190	38	New York A.L.	3-2	2.86	62/0	1	63.0	65	23	20	11	45
40	Harden, Rich	L/R	6-1/180	22	Midland	2-0	0.00	2/2	0	13.0	0	0	0	0	17
					Sacramento	9-4	3.15	16/14	0	88.2	72	34	31	35	91
					Oakland	5-4	4.46	15/13	0	74.2	72	38	37	40	67
32	Harville, Chad	R/R	5-9/185	27	Sacramento	3-5	2.05	48/0	18	57.0	42	16	13	21	57
					Oakland	1-0	5.82	21/0	1	21.2	25	15	14	17	18
15	Hudson, Tim	R/R	6-1/164	28	Oakland	16-7	2.70	34/34	0	240.0	197	84	72	61	162
	Lehr, Justin	R/R	6-1/200	26	Sacramento	3-2	3.72	53/0	4	75.0	74	34	31	27	64
45	Mecir, Jim	B/R	6-1/230	33	Sacramento	0-0	5.40	3/2	0	3.1	5	4	2	2	3
					Oakland	2-3	5.59	41/0	1	37.0	40	25	23	16	25
20	Mulder, Mark	L/L	6-6/208	26	Oakland	15-9	3.13	26/26	0	186.2	180	66	65	40	128
	Ramos, Mario	L/L	5-11/180	26	Texas	1-1	6.23	3/3	0	13.0	11	9	9	13	8
					Oklahoma	0-3	6.40	5/5	0	32.1	39	24	23	12	22
					Frisco	8-7	3.86	19/19	0	121.1	130	59	52	28	103
	Redman, Mark	L/L	6-5/245	30	Florida	14-9	3.59	29/29	0	190.2	172	82	76	61	151
	Rheinecker, John	L/L	6-2/215	24	Sacramento	2-0	3.79	6/6	0	38.0	47	19	16	12	26
	Rhodes, Arthur	L/L	6-2/212	34	Seattle	3-3	4.17	67/0	3	54.0	53	25	25	18	48
73	Rincon, Ricardo	L/L	5-9/190	33	Oakland	8-4	3.25	64/0	0	55.1	45	21	20	32	40
	Wood, Mike	R/R	6-3/180	23	Sacramento	9-3	3.05	16/16	0	91.1	87	34	31	23	59
					Oakland	2-1	10.54	7/1	0	13.2	24	17	16	7	15
75	Zito, Barry	L/L	6-4/215	25	Oakland	14-12	3.30	35/35	0	231.2	186	98	85	88	146

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Melhuse, Adam	B/R	6-2/200	32	Sacramento	.286	45	147	26	42	9	0	3	17	26	32	0
					Oakland	.299	40	77	13	23	7	0	5	14	9	19	0
	Miller, Damian	R/R	6-3/220	34	Chicago N.L.	.233	114	352	34	82	19	1	9	36	39	91	1

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Bynum, Freddie	L/R	6-1/180	24	Midland	.263	132	510	84	134	18	9	5	58	56	135	22
3	Chavez, Eric	L/R	6-1/206	26	Oakland	.282	156	588	94	166	39	5	29	101	62	89	8
	Crosby, Bobby	R/R	6-3/195	24	Sacramento	.308	127	465	86	143	32	6	22	90	63	110	24
					Oakland	.000	11	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0
14	Ellis, Mark	R/R	5-11/180	26	Oakland	.248	154	553	78	137	31	5	9	52	48	94	6
	German, Esteban	R/R	5-9/165	26	Sacramento	.306	115	467	86	143	20	8	3	51	56	64	32
					Oakland	.250	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
10	Hatteberg, Scott	L/R	6-1/210	34	Oakland	.253	147	541	63	137	34	0	12	61	66	53	0
	Johnson, Dan	L/R	6-2/220	24	Sacramento	.250	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Koonce, Graham	L/L	6-4/225	28	Sacramento	.277	138	480	82	133	23	1	34	115	98	119	0
					Oakland	.125	6	8	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	0
	Menechino, Frank	R/R	5-8/198	23	Oakland	.193	43	83	10	16	0	0	2	9	19	16	0
	Rouse, Mike	L/R	5-11/185	23	Midland	.300	130	457	75	137	33	3	3	53	63	83	7
					Sacramento	.429	2	7	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Scutaro, Marco	R/R	5-10/170	28	Norfolk	.311	70	244	42	76	18	3	9	32	33	34	11
					New York N.L.	.213	48	75	10	16	4	0	2	6	13	14	2

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
22	Byrnes, Eric	R/R	6-2/210	28	Oakland	.263	121	414	64	109	27	9	12	51	42	71	10
24	Dye, Jermaine	R/R	6-5/220	30	Sacramento	.286	13	49	9	14	2	0	2	9	11	11	0
					Oakland	.172	65	221	28	38	6	0	4	20	25	42	1
	Edwards, Mike	R/R	6-1/185	27	Sacramento	.298	125	436	78	130	23	4	14	95	60	78	5
					Oakland	.250	4	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
	Grabowski, Jason	L/R	6-3/200	27	Ariz. Athletics	.333	2	6	1	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	0
					Sacramento	.292	67	250	44	73	13	2	9	40	31	46	7
					Oakland	.000	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0
	Kielty, Bobby	B/R	6-1/225	27	Minnesota	.252	75	238	40	60	13	0	9	32	42	56	6
					Toronto	.233	62	189	31	44	13	1	4	25	29	36	2
	Kotsay, Mark	L/L	6-0/201	28	San Diego	.266	128	482	64	128	28	4	7	38	56	82	6
13	McMillon, Billy	L/L	5-11/195	32	Sacramento	.333	38	153	31	51	10	0	8	35	17	30	1
					Oakland	.268	66	153	15	41	11	0	6	26	19	36	0
	Watson, Matt	L/R	5-11/200	25	St. Lucie	.286	2	7	2	2	0	1	0	2	1	2	1
					Binghamton	.393	8	28	6	11	3	0	1	1	2	2	1
					Norfolk	.295	74	254	40	75	18	1	11	55	23	23	2
					Brooklyn	.143	4	14	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	3	2
					New York N.L.	.174	15	23	0	4	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Eric Cammack, RHP Wayne Gomes, IF Ramon Castro.

SEATTLE MARINERS

PROJECTED A.L. WEST FINISH: 3RD

By Jim Street/MLB.com

Boosting an offense that wobbled badly over the second half of last season became general manager Bill Bavasi's focus the minute he got the job in early November. But his first headline move came three days before the winter meetings, when he added free-agent reliever Eddie Guardado to the bullpen. That turned an already solid group into perhaps the best relief corps in the American League, if not all of baseball.

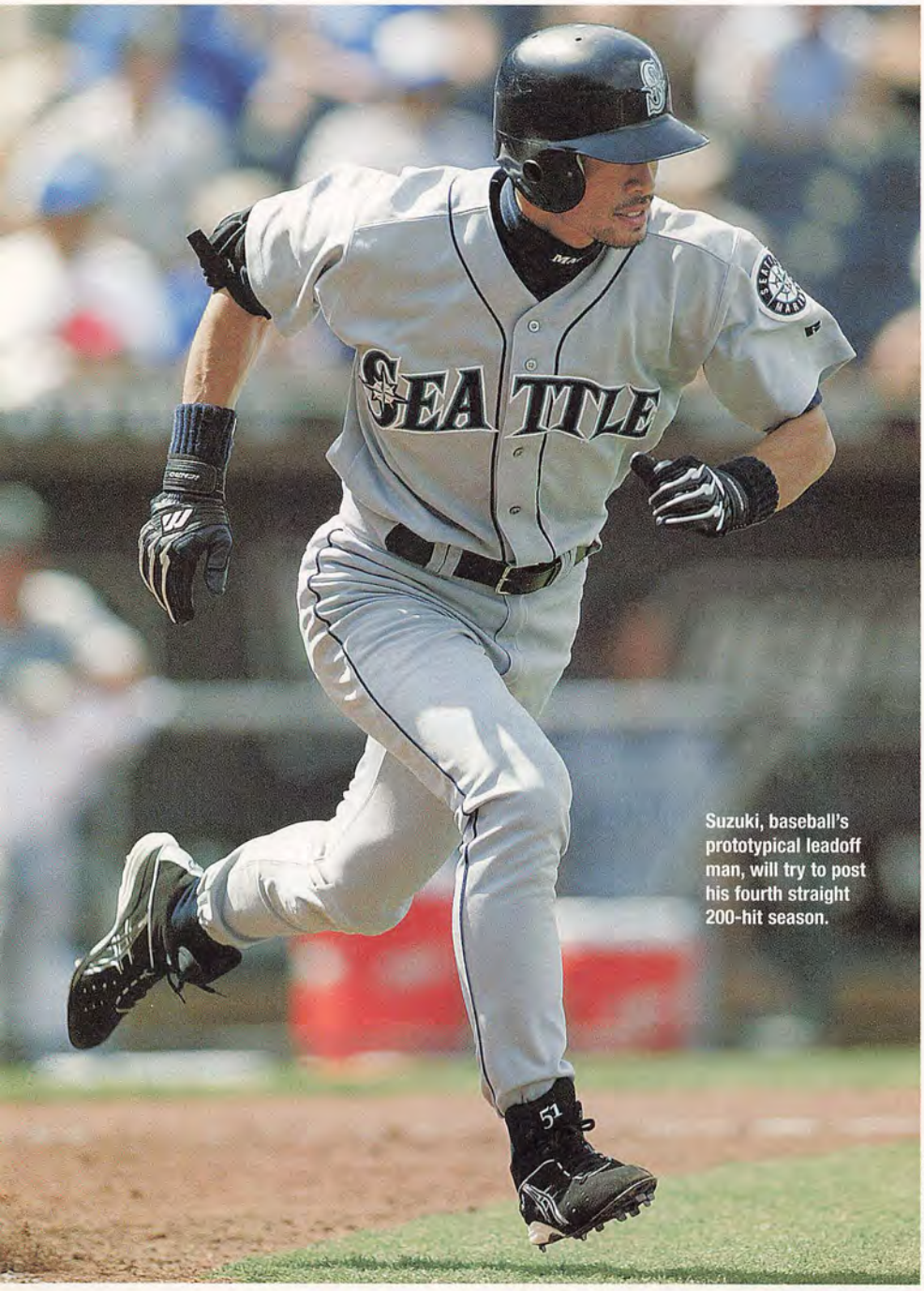
With righthander Shigetoshi Hasegawa (1.48 ERA last season) coming off an All-Star season, righthanded closer Kazuhiro Sasaki (129 saves in four seasons with Seattle) determined to bounce back from an injury-plagued 2003 and righthander Rafael Soriano (3-0, 1.53 ERA) ready to shoulder more of a load, a lead after six innings would seem secure. Perhaps as secure as in 2001, when the Mariners posted a 92-5 record when leading after six innings.

But getting a lead is no sure thing. Outfielder Raul Ibanez, the first free agent Bavasi signed, moves into left field and should improve the team's lefthanded run production. But he is not the power hitter the team needs. In fact, he has not hit as many home runs in a season as the player he basically replaces, center fielder Mike Cameron.

Though prone to strike out, Cameron still hit 25 home runs in both 2001 and '02, and it is doubtful Ibanez will match that. More punch will be needed from first baseman John Olerud (10 homers last season), catcher Ben Davis (six in 246 at-bats) and the new left side of the infield—third baseman Scott Spiezio and shortstop Rich Aurilia.

Bringing back designated hitter Edgar Martinez for a curtain call is hugely popular with Mariners fans, but you have to wonder if the 41-year-old can stay healthy—or productive.

However it tracks, it will be interesting watching the Mariners attempt to crack the 90-win plateau for a fifth straight season.



Suzuki, baseball's prototypical leadoff man, will try to post his fourth straight 200-hit season.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

MANAGER The unexpected departure of high-profile and super-successful Lou Piniella prior to the 2003 season gave first-year manager Bob Melvin a roster full of players accustomed to winning. Melvin maintained a let-them-play attitude and directed the team to 93 victories, matching the win total in Piniella's final season.

TSNUMBER

139

Home runs hit by the Mariners in 2003, ranking them next-to-last in the A.L. Bret Boone did his part with 35, but he needs help.

Melvin, who says he will be more involved in the day-to-day operation in 2004, made two coaching changes during the offseason, hiring Paul Molitor as the hitting coach (replacing Lamar Johnson) and former Giants teammate Mike Aldrete as the first base coach.

Melvin is a stickler for preparation and matchups. He is from the new generation of baseball skippers who rely on computer-generated information that can be used to

great advantage. **GRADE: B+**

ROTATION In an era when complete games are rare and rotations change like the wind, the Mariners return a starting staff that did not miss a beat (or a start) in 2003. Among them, Freddy Garcia (33), Jamie Moyer (33), Joel Pineiro (32), Ryan Franklin (32) and Gil Meche (32) started all 162 games, as the Mariners became the first major league team since the 1966 Los Angeles Dodgers to use just five starters during the regular season. Every starter except Meche pitched at least 200 innings, and he missed by just 14. All, however, must be more consistent for the team to succeed.

Garcia pitched like an ace at times and a No. 5 starter at others. He was 6-0 with a 2.12 ERA during a six-start stretch in May and June, but 0-6 with a 10.03 ERA during a seven-game debacle in July and August. Garcia became the second pitcher in franchise history to have a six-game winning streak and six-game losing skid in the same season. Garcia has what it takes to become a 20-game winner, but it is a plateau he has never figured out how to scale.

Moyer is the oldest pitcher on the staff at 41 and arguably the most consistent. The crafty lefthander makes hitters look foolish because he is so adept at moving the ball, using both sides of the plate and the top and bottom of the strike zone. He has pitched into the sixth inning in 87 percent of his 233 starts since being traded to the Mariners midway through the 1996 season.

The righthanded Pineiro needs more consistency than he had last season. The eight-game winning streak he fashioned from June 16-July 31 demonstrated his ability to be one of the best pitchers in the league. But his five-game losing streak in August demonstrated that he still has work to do before entering the upper echelon of A.L. starters. His 76 walks were the most on the staff, a figure that has to be trimmed.

Franklin and Meche may be the best fourth and fifth starters in the A.L. not wearing pinstripes. Franklin's terrific control (61 walks in 212 innings) can get him into long-ball trouble (34 home runs allowed), but he usually takes the game into the late innings. Franklin pitched into the sixth inning in 31 of his 32 starts. The only time he did not was because of a long rain delay after he had pitched three scoreless innings in Cleveland.

Meche proved in 2003 that he is healthy and has the kind of stuff that can make him a big winner. His fastball consistently hit 96-97 mph throughout the season, and he developed an outstanding curveball. What he needs now is to learn how to work out of jams on the days he does not have his best stuff. **GRADE: B**

BULLPEN Sasaki returns for what might be his final season as the closer. Pride will be a factor in getting the righthander back to where he was in his first three seasons with the Mariners, when he compiled 119 saves and ranked as one of the premier late-game stoppers in the A.L. For that to happen, he must get his fastball back into the mid-90-mph range so his split-finger pitch is more effective. But don't be surprised if Guardado emerges from camp or soon thereafter as the closer. The veteran was 41-of-45 in save opportunities last season after going 45-of-51 the previous campaign.

Hasegawa, who was good enough to earn an All-Star invitation last season, returns to his setup role after spending the final half of 2003 as the closer in place of the injured Sasaki, who broke two ribs when he fell on his suitcase. Hasegawa does not have lights-out stuff, but he has a resilient arm and is as effective against righthanded batters (.221 average and 3 home runs allowed) as he is against lefthanders (.246, 2 home runs).

Soriano, a hard-throwing righthander, assumes a larger role. Soriano, a converted outfielder, was brilliant a year ago and has a bright future in the closer role. His 68 strikeouts and 12 walks in 53 innings tell you all you need to know about his ability to throw consistent, quality strikes.

Righthanders Julio Mateo and Kevin Jarvis are long and middle relievers who can eat up innings. **GRADE: A**

CATCHING With veteran Dan Wilson in the final year of his two-year contract, look for the Mariners to accelerate the transition to switch-hitting Davis as No. 1 catcher. He will be 27 when the regular season begins and entering the prime of his career.

The second overall draft choice in 1995 (by the Padres) has not yet lived up to expectations, although his progress has been impeded by playing second fiddle to Wilson the past two seasons. Davis has lapses when calling a game but is improving. A big question is whether the 6-4, 225-pounder can provide consistent offense. He hit .294 before the All-Star break last season, .140 after—in 60 fewer at-bats.

Wilson still is terrific defensively and figures to be behind the plate in most (if not

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Another 200-hit season for RF **Ichiro Suzuki**. Suzuki would become the first player in major league history to reach the plateau in each of his first four seasons.
2. A 20-win season for RHP **Joel Pineiro**. Pineiro, a 16-game winner in 2003, is one of the hardest workers on the team, has a wide assortment of pitches and is mature beyond his 25 years.
3. RHP **Kazuhiro Sasaki** giving up the closer job to RHP **Rafael Soriano**. Sasaki needs a good fastball to make his splitter effective; if the fastball remains AWOL, the hard-throwing Soriano is available.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

They have a whole lot of young arms on the way up, people like Rafael Soriano and J.J. Putz and on and on. I hear about them all the time. ... I think they need (bench) players who are good enough that they can rest the regulars more often and feel good about it. I also believe the team needs to get younger. ... You have to wonder how healthy Edgar Martinez can be over the course of a 162-game season. ... John Olerud seemed to lose a lot of his power last season, possibly because of a slower bat. ... I think (Joel) Pineiro is very solid and consistent. His only problem is getting into deep counts. He grows on you. I have always liked (Gil) Meche's arm. ... I think their stopper has to be Soriano because Kaz Sasaki's velocity was down and the splitter wasn't as effective. ... (Randy) Winn is a good athlete who had to learn how to play baseball. He has become a baseball player. Wish he had more power.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Ichiro Suzuki, RF	**8**
Does it all but must bunt more when slumping.	
2. Rich Aurilia, SS	**4**
Former Giant adds savvy to the lineup.	
3. John Olerud, 1B	**5**
Gold Glove remains, but power has diminished.	
4. Bret Boone, 2B	**7**
Powerful for his size, and a brilliant defender.	
5. Edgar Martinez, DH	**6**
The last hurrah for the ancient Mariner.	
6. Raul Ibanez, LF	**5**
Hits to all fields and is a solid run producer.	
7. Scott Spiezio, 3B	**5**
Dependable contributor with 15-homer power.	
8. Randy Winn, CF	**6**
Says little but has a solid all-around game.	
9. Ben Davis, C	**4**
Time is right for him to become No. 1.	
Starters	
1. Freddy Garcia, RH	**6**
Great stuff but lacks emotional maturity.	
2. Jamie Moyer, LH	**7**
Better at 41 than he was at 31.	
3. Joel Pineiro, RH	**6**
Has the right stuff but needs consistency.	
4. Ryan Franklin, RH	**5**
An overachiever driven by a will to succeed.	
5. Gil Meche, RH	**5**
Great arm, he just needs experience.	
Closer	
Kazuhiro Sasaki, RH	**7**
Relies on bread-and-butter split-finger.	
Total	**86**

all) of Moyer's starts. If Seattle carries a third catcher, it figures to be veteran Pat Borders. For whatever reason, he worked remarkably well late last season with Garcia, who allowed just six earned runs in 33 innings with Borders behind the plate.
GRADE: D

INFIELD The right side is in good hands with Olerud and Bret Boone. Each is capable of winning a Gold Glove.

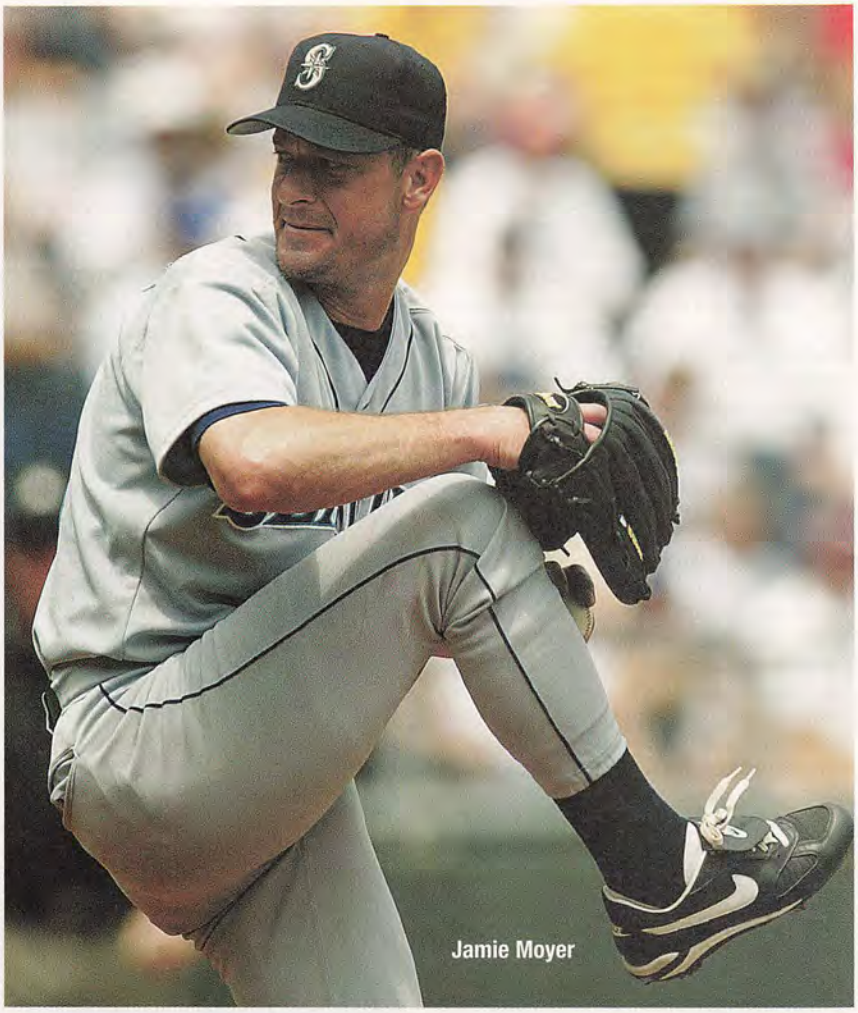
Though smallish in stature, the 5-11 Boone has remarkable power, especially to right field. That bodes well playing at Safeco Field, because fly balls travel farther that direction than to left or left-center. You can depend on 30-something home runs from the second baseman, who enters the final year of a guaranteed contract. If he has 450 plate appearances, he automatically will get a fourth year for $9 million.

Olerud has one year remaining on a two-year deal, and the Mariners are counting on the second year being more productive than the first. Olerud's home run output dwindled to 10 last season, the fewest he has had since hitting eight in 1995 for the Blue Jays.

The left side of the infield is experienced and new. The 32-year-old Aurilia was signed to replace injury-prone Carlos Guillen at short, and he brings offensive and defensive consistency to the lineup.

Spiezio, who was signed to replace Jeff Cirillo at third, should provide 15-home run power to a position that has been a nightmare for management since Cirillo arrived from Colorado as a career .311 hitter. He batted .249 in '02, .205 in '03 and was traded to the Padres, a deal that brought utilityman Dave Hansen to Seattle.

Martinez will become the first player to start and finish his career with Seattle—and what a career it has been. He holds the franchise record in virtually every offensive category but he wants to play in a World Series. If "Gar" can stay healthy for one more year, he could reach the 20-home run plateau for the ninth time and drive in at least 100 runs for a seventh time. **GRADE: B**


DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN
Jamie Moyer

OUTFIELD Just when you thought the team's left field dilemma had been settled, here comes another change. With Cameron departing as a free agent, the Mariners plan to move speedy Randy Winn from left to center field and insert Ibanez in left. The Mariners have not had the same opening day starter in left field in consecutive seasons since 1995-96 (Darren Bragg).

But right field has been the Mariners' outfield position of dreams, starting with Jay Buhner (1991-99) and now Ichiro Suzuki (2001-present). In all likelihood, Ichiro will become the first player in major league history to have at least 200 hits in each of his first four seasons.

If anything happens to a starter, look for Quinton McCracken, who was acquired in an offseason trade. **GRADE: B**

Jim Street covers the Mariners for MLB.com.

Mariners Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.271	.267
Runs	795	788
Hits	1509	1495
Home runs	139	179
Stolen bases	108	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	3.76	4.52
Complete games	8	8
Saves	38	38
Walks	466	508
Strikeouts	1001	981
Errors	65	105

WINS AND LOSSES

93-69 (2nd in A.L. West), 50-31 at home, 43-38 on road, 18-23 vs. A.L. East, 32-13 vs. A.L. Central, 33-25 vs. A.L. West, 10-8 vs. N.L., 33-16 vs. LH starters, 60-53 vs. RH starters, 83-64 on grass, 10-5 on turf, 29-16 in daytime, 64-53 at night, 16-15 in one-run games, 6-6 in extra-inning games, 1-0-0 in doubleheaders.
Bob Melvin's record: 93-69, 1 season with Mariners.
Postseason: none.
Team record past five years: 472-338 (.583, ranks 4th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: LHP Eddie Guardado (FA/Twins), IF Dave Hansen (trade/Padres), OF Raul Ibanez (FA/Royals), RHP Kevin Jarvis (trade/Padres), OF Quinton McCracken (trade/Diamondbacks), IF Scott Spiezio (FA/Angels).
Losses: RHP Armando Benitez (FA/Marlins), OF Mike Cameron (FA/Mets), 3B Jeff Cirillo (trade/Padres), 1B Greg Colbrunn (trade/Diamondbacks), IF Mark McLemore (FA), LHP Arthur Rhodes (FA/A's), SS Rey Sanchez (FA/D-Rays).

MEDIA

Radio: KOMO-AM (1000)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net Northwest
Website: mariners.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Tacoma (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: San Antonio (Texas)
Class A: Everett (Northwest), San Bernardino (California), Wisconsin (Midwest)
Rookie: Peoria (Arizona)

Safeco Field

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 47,772
Ticket information: 206-346-4001

Spring training: Peoria Stadium (Peoria, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 602-784-4444

Mariners Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 ANA	7 ANA	8 ANA	9 OAK	10 OAK
11 OAK	12	13 ANA	14 ANA	15 ANA	16 TEX	17 TEX
18 TEX	19 OAK	20 OAK	21 OAK	22 OAK	23 TEX	24 TEX
25 TEX	26 BAL	27 BAL	28 BAL	29 BAL	30 DET	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 DET
2 DET	3	4 MIN	5 MIN	6 MIN	7 NYY	8 NYY
9 NYY	10	11 MIN	12 MIN	13 MIN	14 NYY	15 NYY
16 NYY	17	18 BAL	19 BAL	20 BAL	21 DET	22 DET
23 DET	24	25 CLE	26 CLE	27 CLE	28 BOS	29 BOS
30 BOS	31 TOR					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 TOR	2 TOR	3	4 CHW	5 CHW
6 CHW	7 HOU	8 HOU	9 HOU	10	11 MON	12 MON
13 MON	14	15 MIL	16 MIL	17 MIL	18 PIT	19 PIT
20 PIT	21	22 TEX	23 TEX	24 TEX	25 SD	26 SD
27 SD	28 TEX	29 TEX	30 TEX			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 TEX	2 STL	3 STL
4 STL	5	6 TOR	7 TOR	8 TOR	9 CHW	10 CHW
11 CHW	12	13 All-Star	14	15 CLE	16 CLE	17 CLE
18 CLE	19 BOS	20 BOS	21 OAK	22 OAK	23 ANA	24 ANA
25 ANA	26 OAK	27 OAK	28 OAK	29 ANA	30 ANA	31 ANA

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 ANA	2	3 BAL	4 BAL	5 TB	6 TB	7 TB
8 TB	9	10 MIN	11 MIN	12 MIN	13 NYY	14 NYY
15 NYY	16	17 KC	18 KC	19 KC	20 DET	21 DET
22 DET	23 TB	24 TB	25 TB	26 KC	27 KC	28 KC
29 KC	30	31 TOR				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 TOR	2 TOR	3 CHW	4 CHW
5 CHW	6 CLE	7	8 CLE	9 BOS	10 BOS	11 BOS
12 BOS	13 ANA	14 ANA	15 ANA	16 ANA	17 OAK	18 OAK
19 OAK	20 ANA	21 ANA	22 ANA	23	24 TEX	25 TEX
26 TEX	27 OAK	28 OAK	29 OAK	30 OAK		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 TEX	2 TEX
3 TEX	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Bob Melvin (3). Coaches: Mike Aldrete (25), Orlando Gomez (49), Rene Lachemann (15), Paul Molitor (4), Dave Myers (31), Bryan Price (32).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	Baek, Cha Seung	R/R	6-4/190	24	San Antonio	3-3	2.57	9/9	0	56.0	49	18	16	17	46
					Inland Empire	5-1	3.65	13/10	1	56.2	55	27	23	9	50
45	Franklin, Ryan	R/R	6-3/180	31	Seattle	11-13	3.57	32/32	0	212.0	199	93	84	61	99
34	Garcia, Freddy	R/R	6-4/240	27	Seattle	12-14	4.51	33/33	0	201.1	196	109	101	71	144
	Guardado, Eddie	R/L	6-0/194	33	Minnesota	3-5	2.89	66/0	41	65.1	50	22	21	14	60
17	Hasegawa, Shig.	R/R	5-11/180	35	Seattle	2-4	1.48	63/0	16	73.0	62	12	12	18	32
	Heaverlo, Jeff	R/R	6-1/215	26	Tacoma	5-12	5.39	24/24	0	123.2	150	80	74	38	75
	Jarvis, Kevin	L/R	6-2/200	34	Lake Elsinore	2-1	4.09	3/3	0	22.0	18	11	10	4	19
					San Diego	4-8	5.87	16/16	0	92.0	113	65	60	32	49
	Johnson, Rett	R/R	6-2/210	24	Tacoma	5-2	2.15	11/10	0	71.0	63	26	17	18	49
	Looper, Aaron	R/R	6-2/185	27	Tacoma	5-2	3.11	46/0	5	75.1	72	27	26	26	67
					Seattle	0-0	5.14	6/0	0	7.0	7	4	4	2	6
	Madritsch, Bobby	L/L	6-2/190	28	San Antonio	13-7	3.63	27/27	0	158.2	133	75	64	67	154
40	Mateo, Julio	R/R	6-0/177	26	Seattle	4-0	3.15	50/0	1	85.2	69	32	30	13	71
55	Meche, Gil	R/R	6-3/200	25	Seattle	15-13	4.59	32/32	0	186.1	187	97	95	63	130
50	Moyer, Jamie	L/L	6-0/175	41	Seattle	21-7	3.27	33/33	0	215.0	199	83	78	66	129
	Nageotte, Clint	R/R	6-3/200	23	San Antonio	11-7	3.10	27/27	0	154.0	127	60	53	67	157
38	Pineiro, Joel	R/R	6-1/200	25	Seattle	16-11	3.78	32/32	0	211.2	192	94	89	76	151
	Putz, J.J.	R/R	6-5/220	27	Tacoma	0-3	2.51	41/0	11	86.0	69	30	24	34	60
					Seattle	0-0	4.91	3/0	0	3.2	4	2	2	3	3
22	Sasaki, Kazuhiro	R/R	6-4/220	36	Inland Empire	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	1.0	0	0	0	1	2
					Everett	0-1	22.50	2/2	0	2.0	5	5	5	0	5
					Tacoma	0-1	9.82	3/2	1	3.2	5	4	4	1	5
					Seattle	1-2	4.05	35/0	10	33.1	31	17	15	15	29
39	Soriano, Rafael	R/R	6-1/175	24	Tacoma	4-3	3.19	11/10	0	62.0	43	24	22	12	63
					Seattle	3-0	1.53	40/0	1	53.0	30	9	9	12	68
	Taylor, Aaron	R/R	6-8/245	26	Tacoma	1-3	2.45	33/0	16	40.1	30	11	11	13	34
					Seattle	0-0	8.53	10/0	0	12.2	17	12	12	6	9
	Thornton, Matt	L/L	6-6/220	27	Inland Empire	0-0	4.00	2/2	0	9.0	9	4	4	4	14
					Tacoma	0-2	8.00	2/2	0	9.0	14	11	8	3	5

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Christianson, Ryan	R/R	6-2/210	22	Did Not Play												
13	Davis, Ben	B/R	6-4/225	27	Seattle	.236	80	246	25	58	18	0	6	42	18	61	0
6	Wilson, Dan	R/R	6-3/215	35	San Antonio	.000	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
					Seattle	.241	96	316	32	76	15	2	4	43	15	52	0

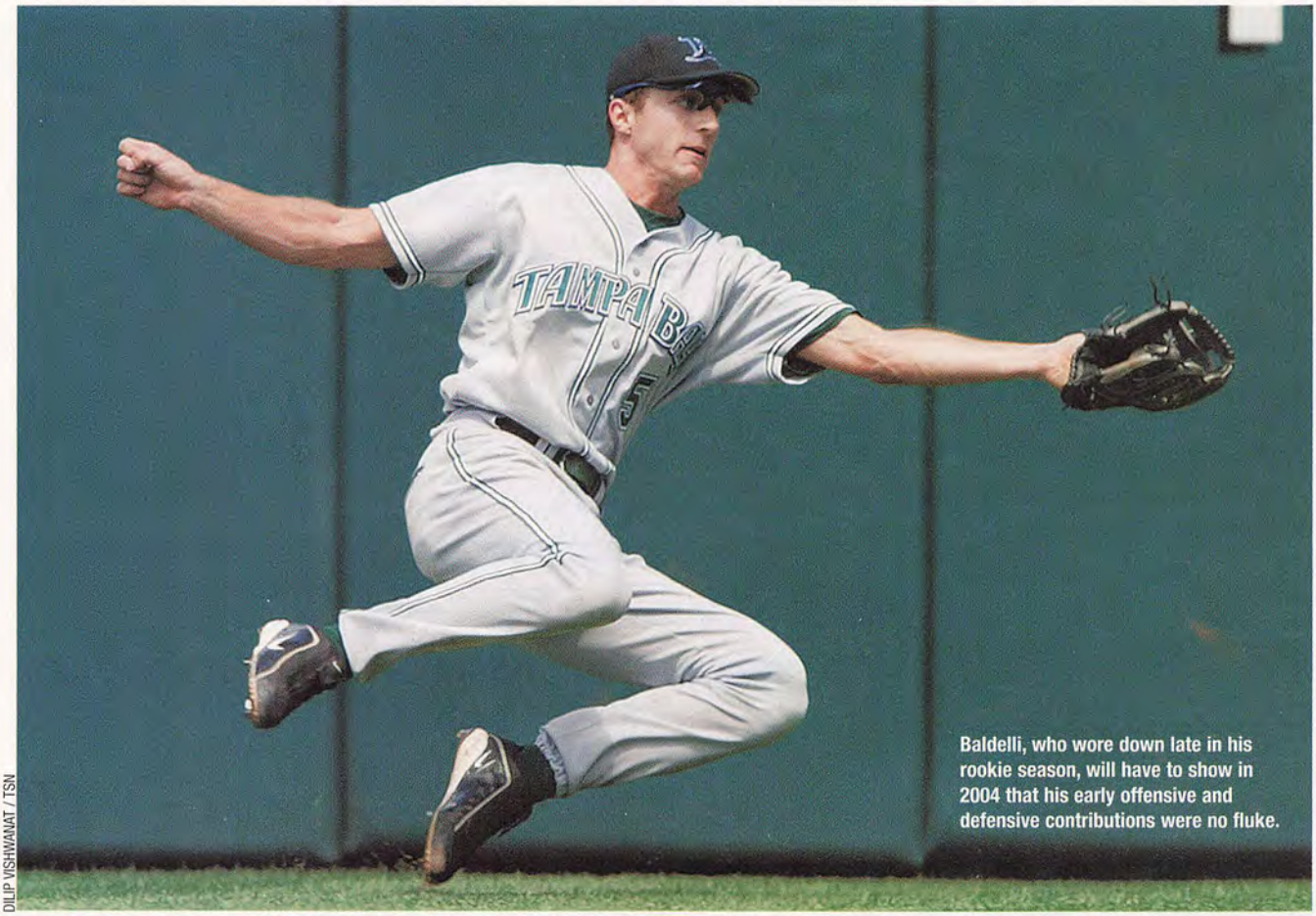
No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Aurilia, Rich	R/R	6-1/185	32	San Francisco	.277	129	505	65	140	26	1	13	58	36	82	2
16	Bloomquist, Willie	R/R	5-11/185	26	Seattle	.250	89	196	30	49	7	2	1	14	19	39	4
29	Boone, Bret	R/R	5-10/190	34	Seattle	.294	159	622	111	183	35	5	35	117	68	125	16
	Dobbs, Greg	L/R	6-1/205	25	San Antonio	.333	2	6	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Hansen, Dave	L/R	6-0/195	35	San Diego	.244	110	135	13	33	4	1	2	15	23	25	1
	Leone, Justin	R/R	6-1/190	26	San Antonio	.288	135	455	103	131	38	7	21	92	92	104	20
11	Martinez, Edgar	R/R	5-11/204	41	Seattle	.294	145	497	72	146	25	0	24	98	92	95	0
5	Olerud, John	L/L	6-5/225	35	Seattle	.269	152	539	64	145	35	0	10	83	84	67	0
39	Santiago, Ramon	B/R	5-11/167	24	Detroit	.225	141	444	41	100	18	1	2	29	33	66	10
	Spiezio, Scott	B/R	6-2/225	31	Anaheim	.265	158	521	69	138	36	7	16	83	46	66	6
23	Ugueto, Luis	B/R	5-11/170	25	Tacoma	.308	8	26	9	8	3	0	2	4	5	4	2
					San Antonio	.260	89	350	53	91	12	2	1	40	27	75	25
					Seattle	.200	12	5	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Ibanez, Raul	L/R	6-2/200	31	Kansas City	.294	157	608	95	179	33	5	18	90	49	81	8
	McCracken, Quin.	B/R	5-7/188	34	Arizona	.227	115	203	17	46	5	2	0	18	15	34	5
32	Snelling, Chris	L/L	5-10/165	22	San Antonio	.333	47	186	24	62	12	2	3	25	8	30	1
					Tacoma	.269	18	67	11	18	2	0	3	10	5	12	1
	Strong, Jamal	R/R	5-10/180	25	Ariz. Mariners	.714	2	7	5	5	0	1	0	4	3	1	3
					Tacoma	.305	56	210	38	64	6	1	2	19	25	38	26
					Seattle	.000	12	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
51	Suzuki, Ichiro	L/R	5-9/172	30	Seattle	.312	159	679	111	212	29	8	13	62	36	69	34
2	Winn, Randy	B/R	6-2/197	29	Seattle	.295	157	600	103	177	37	4	11	75	41	108	23

Spring Training Invitees: C Pat Borders.

PROJECTED A.L. EAST FINISH: 5TH

DEVIL RAYS



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Baldelli, who wore down late in his rookie season, will have to show in 2004 that his early offensive and defensive contributions were no fluke.

By Paul C. Smith/MLB.com

The Devil Rays have finished last in the American League East all six years of their existence. But there is hope for improvement because second-year manager Lou Piniella will demand it. Improvement also could be dictated by an impressive group of veterans the team has added to its core of talented young players.

The payroll hit rock bottom in 2003, but Piniella squeezed 63 victories out of his troops, including season-series wins against Baltimore and Toronto. With several huge free-agent contracts finally off their books, the Devil Rays were able to increase their payroll to $25 million in the offseason.

Despite competing with the free-spending Yankees and Red Sox, the Rays hope to approach .500 and get serious about competing for the playoffs.

Such optimism stems from an outstanding group of young players that includes Rocco Baldelli, Carl Crawford and Aubrey Huff and talented 23-year-old righthander Doug Waechter, a home-grown boy. The upside for this group is dramatic.

TSNUMBER

90

Games decided by two runs or less in 2003, a major league high. The Rays won 39 of them. They need to win more to approach .500.

And management has replaced Travis Lee at first base with Tino Martinez and his four World Series rings, while adding slick-fielding veteran shortstop Rey Sanchez, Gold Glove right fielder Jose Cruz Jr., solid third baseman Geoff Blum and a big lefthander named Mark Hendrickson.

And the talent flow does not stop there. The Devil Rays expect their last two No. 1 draft picks to be ready for the big leagues soon, possibly by the end of the 2004 season. Fans should keep an eye out for a pair of coming attractions—shortstop B.J. Upton and outfielder Delmon Young.

MANAGER Piniella used his first season with the Devil Rays to get to know his players and their abilities in different situations. He kept his infamous temper relatively in check because he knew the young players were giving everything they had.

Now, the Devil Rays have surrounded their core of 15 youngsters with veterans, several of whom Piniella has managed before. He should be much more comfortable with his hometown team this season.

The veteran manager is a strategic thinker who won a number of games for the Devil Rays last season by matching the right pitcher against the right hitter or team, and by making successful moves near the end of games.

Piniella has a knack for spotting talent and putting players in the right roles. He likes his troops to have talent, toughness and competitiveness. Anything less is not acceptable. **GRADE: B**

ROTATION This unit is thin and inexperienced and yields too many walks. But most of the starters have good stuff and attack their job without fear.

Victor Zambrano is the ace by default. He has led or tied for the team lead in victories each of the last two years. He has wicked movement on his pitches and can be unhittable at times. The most important variable with the 28-year-old Venezuelan has been self-confidence, which seems to improve with each outing.

After almost five years away from the major leagues, Jeremi Gonzalez rebounded and allowed three or fewer runs in 17 of his 24 starts. Despite his 6-11 record, Gonzalez was the team's most consistent starter. He did not get much run support and the bullpen blew five leads for him, but the 6-foot righthander typically worked into the sixth or seventh inning and was efficient and smart with his pitches.

Waechter became an instant hometown hero late last season. The 23-year-old righthander became the first native of St. Petersburg, Fla., to play for the Devil Rays and he responded by throwing a two-hit shutout against the Mariners at Tropicana Field in his first start. He is big, strong and has good control. Waechter is on target to become the team's ace.

The Devil Rays traded for the 6-9 Hendrickson so they could have a lefthander to match against A.L. East foes. The former Blue Jay knows the division well.

Righthander Dewon Brazelton was rushed to the majors in each of the last two seasons before being sent back to Class A Bakersfield early last year to have his mechanics and mental approach overhauled. It seemed to work as Brazelton excelled in the Arizona Fall League and vaulted back into the Devil Rays' 2003 plans.

Also in the running for a rotation spot are veteran pickup Paul Abbott and 25-year-old righthander Jorge Sosa, who finished 2003 with a flourish. **GRADE: C-**

BULLPEN The Rays, in need of a veteran closer, instead opted for the more affordable Danys Baez, who was 2-9 last season for Cleveland while posting 25 saves in 35 chances. The Cuban righthander, who throws in the mid-90s and attacks hitters with a split-finger fastball, has a closer makeup but must show he can handle the job with consistency.

The signing of Baez freed Lance Carter, the team's lone All-Star last season, to return to his more familiar setup role. Carter, a 28-year-old rookie, started and finished strong but struggled in between. He is a smart pitcher who never gets rattled.

This could be an important season for 26-year-old Jesus Colome. The Dominican righthander throws 97-98 mph but has not learned to trust and effectively mix in his above-average changeup. When he does, he could become a dominating closer.

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A breakout season for LF **Carl Crawford**. The 22-year-old wants to contribute more than just steals. With increased discipline at the plate, Crawford will hit 15 to 18 home runs and approach .300.
2. A lot of 10-8 games. The Rays added offense because they believe the only way to compete in the A.L. East is to outscore teams. Plus, most of their top pitchers are very young and still learning.
3. SS **B.J. Upton** and possibly OF **Delmon Young** late in the season. The Devil Rays' No. 1 picks the past two years are still teenagers, but they are too talented to stay in the minors for long.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

The Devil Rays have a lot of very good young players. Many of them are already in the majors, but a couple very good ones are still on the way. (Shortstop) B.J. Upton has all the tools and should be a special player for many years. And (outfielder Delmon) Young has a plus power bat. His potential is unlimited. You put them in a lineup with (Aubrey) Huff, (Carl) Crawford and (Rocco) Baldelli and they will be tough to beat. ... Tampa Bay has great team speed, power potential, and most of their young guys play pretty good defense, too. Their catcher, (Toby) Hall, has a very strong and accurate arm but has to work with a very young pitching staff. ... This is a free-swinging club as a whole. You don't always have to throw them strikes. They rarely take a walk. ... They don't have the pitching horses to compete in the A.L. East. Victor Zambrano has good movement on his pitches, but he is a No. 4 starter on any other team.

Veteran John Halama was brought in to be the team's lefthanded setup man. He has lost some velocity, but is healthy and should be able to fill the role capably.

Rookie Chad Gaudin looks a little like former Seattle pitcher Billy Swift but reminds Piniella of current Mariner Joel Pineiro. Gaudin is small and has a compact delivery. But he also has great mound presence and mixes his pitches well. Like Pineiro, Gaudin will start in the bullpen before moving into the rotation.

Righthander Seth McClung was the team's best starter at the beginning of last season before developing elbow problems that required surgery. Expected to return by midseason, he has the potential to be a closer or top starter.

The Rays took Alec Zumwalt from the Braves organization in the Rule 5 Draft. The 23-year-old righthander has only been pitching full time for two years, but he throws in the mid-90s and has a chance to make it as a long reliever. **GRADE: C-**

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Carl Crawford, LF	**6**
May become Rickey Henderson-type producer.	
2. Jose Cruz Jr., RF	**5**
All-around player who loves to play for Piniella.	
3. Rocco Baldelli, CF	**7**
Smart, mature player who will get better.	
4. Aubrey Huff, DH	**7**
A pure hitter with potential for big numbers.	
5. Tino Martinez, 1B	**3**
Veteran expected to show Rays how to win.	
6. Toby Hall, C	**5**
Good thrower is primed for offensive breakout.	
7. Geoff Blum, 3B	**4**
Offensive potential, can play several positions.	
8. Julio Lugo, 2B	**5**
Surprisingly productive for a middle infielder.	
9. Rey Sanchez, SS	**3**
Has hit for average when playing every day.	
Starters	
1. Victor Zambrano, RH	**5**
Good pitch movement, but control is shaky.	
2. Jeremi Gonzalez, RH	**5**
Great competitor leaves it all on the mound.	
3. Doug Waechter, RH	**5**
Rookie power pitcher with lots of potential.	
4. Mark Hendrickson, LH	**4**
Tall hurler is familiar with the A.L. East.	
5. Dewon Brazelton, RH	**4**
Had an outstanding Arizona Fall League.	
Closer	
Danys Baez, RH	**4**
Hard thrower needs only to develop consistency.	
Total	**72**

CATCHING Toby Hall is one of the most accurate throwers in the A.L. He is good at anticipating a runner's move and has a quick release. He struggled, however, with Piniella's challenge to take control of the young and wild pitching staff. Hall has gap power and will hit 12 to 15 home runs, but he does not walk much and needs to develop better plate discipline.

Hall will get able backup from veteran Brook Fordyce, who batted .273 in 108 games last season for the Baltimore Orioles. Fordyce also ranked third among A.L. catchers with a .996 fielding percentage. **GRADE: B-**

INFIELD This unit has been overhauled.

Julio Lugo, who started at shortstop last season, will move to second base. After the All-Star Game, the 28-year-old Dominican hit .300 with 12 home runs. His fielding and throwing improved over the final three months.

During the winter meetings, the Devil Rays signed defensive specialist Rey Sanchez

Devil Rays Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.265	.267
Runs	715	788
Hits	1501	1495
Home runs	137	179
Stolen bases	142	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.93	4.52
Complete games	7	8
Saves	30	38
Walks	639	508
Strikeouts	877	981
Errors	103	105

WINS AND LOSSES

63-99 (5th in A.L. East), 36-45 at home, 27-54 on road, 34-42 vs. A.L. East, 12-20 vs. A.L. Central, 14-22 vs. A.L. West, 3-15 vs. N.L., 17-29 vs. LH starters, 46-70 vs. RH starters, 21-47 on grass, 42-52 on turf, 14-34 in daytime, 49-65 at night, 23-27 in one-run games, 7-7 in extra-inning games, 0-0-0 in doubleheaders.

Lou Piniella's record: 63-99, 1 season with Devil Rays; 1,382-1,234, 17 seasons (Yankees, Reds, Mariners, Devil Rays).

Postseason: 23-21, 5 seasons (Reds, Mariners); 1 World Series championship (1990).

Team record past five years: 318-490 (.394, ranks 29th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Paul Abbott (FA/Royals), RHP Danys Baez (FA/Indians), IF Geoff Blum (trade/Astros), IF Deivi Cruz (FA/Orioles), OF Jose Cruz Jr. (FA/Giants), C Brook Fordyce (FA/Orioles), LHP John Halama (FA/Athletics), LHP Mark Hendrickson (trade/Blue Jays), 1B Tino Martinez (trade/Cardinals), LHP Trever Miller (FA/Blue Jays), OF Eduardo Perez (FA/Cardinals), SS Rey Sanchez (FA/Mariners)..

Losses: 2B Marlon Anderson (FA), OF Ben Grieve (FA/Brewers), LHP Joe Kennedy (trade/Rockies), 1B Travis Lee (FA), OF Al Martin (FA), SS Rey Ordonez (FA), RHP Carlos Reyes (FA), 3B Jared Sandberg (FA), IF Terry Shumpert (FA), OF Jason Tyner (waivers/Rangers), C Javier Valentin (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: WFLA-AM (970)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net
Website: devilrays.mlb.com

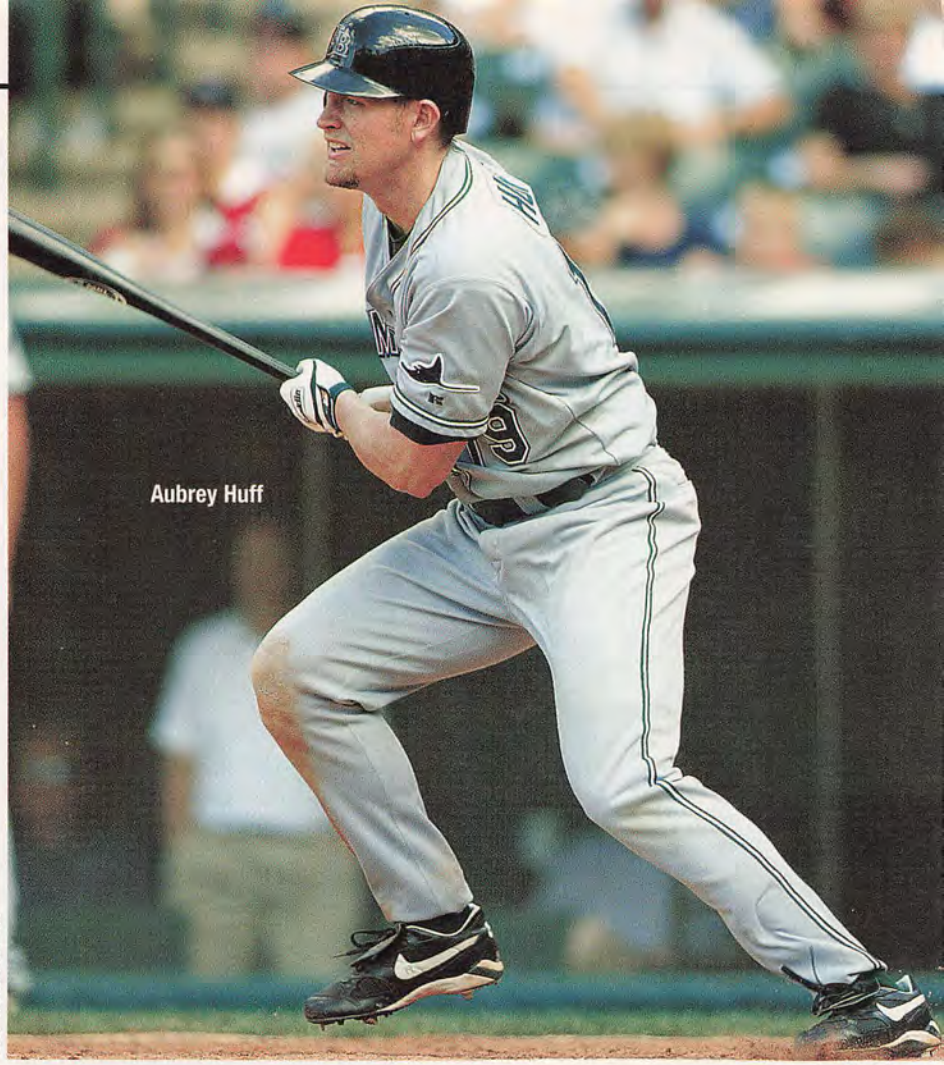
MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Durham (International)
Class AA: TBA
Class A: Bakersfield (California), Charleston, S.C. (South Atlantic), Hudson Valley (New York-Pennsylvania)
Rookie: Princeton (Appalachian)

Tropicana Field

Turf: Artificial
Capacity: 44,445
Ticket information: 727-825-3250

Spring training: Progress Energy Park, Home of Al Lang Field (St. Petersburg, Fla.)
Ticket information: 727-825-3250


Aubrey Huff

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

to play shortstop. He was inked only to a one-year deal because Upton is moving swiftly through the system. Upton is expected to be playing in Tampa by the end of the season.

The Devil Rays traded for the veteran Martinez, a Tampa native who will replace Lee at first base. Reunited with Piniella, his former Seattle skipper, Martinez will be expected to hit 20 to 25 home runs, drive in 85 to 90 runs and help teach the young players what it takes to win.

Blum also arrived in Tampa via trade. He is a switch hitter with good offensive skills. He should start most of the time at third and allow Damian Rolls to become a super sub—a role Mark McLemore filled so well for Piniella in Seattle. Rolls, an aggressive fielder with good hands, adds speed and pop at the plate.

Veteran Eduardo Perez was signed to fill in at first base and the corner outfield spots. The former St. Louis utilityman gives the Devil Rays something they lacked last season—a powerful righthanded backup and pinch hitter. **GRADE: C+**

OUTFIELD One of the most talented young outfields in the major leagues could get even better with the addition of last year's overall No. 1 pick Young, who is touted as a special hitter. Until Young arrives, however, the Devil Rays will offer fans a nice blend of speed, defense and power potential.

Left fielder Crawford, a good fielder with soft hands, might be the fastest player in the big leagues. And, as he continues to improve his plate discipline, he will develop more power and take more walks. The exciting 22-year-old has the potential to be an All-Star.

Center fielder Baldelli also is 22. He set rookie records the first two months of last season and then wore down by September. But his speed is second only to Crawford and he will develop power as he gets stronger. Baldelli could be headed for an even bigger sophomore season.

Cruz was the team's major addition during the offseason. He has good speed, can hit for power and won a Gold Glove while playing right field last season for the Giants. Piniella figures that reuniting Cruz with hitting coach Lee Elia could return him to the 30-homer form he showed in Toronto.

Huff loves to hit. He will primarily work as the designated hitter, but he also can play right field and first base. Huff has become a more disciplined hitter, a key factor in his success against both lefthanders and righthanders. **GRADE: A**

Paul C. Smith covers the Devil Rays for MLB.com.

Devil Rays Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30 † NYY	31 † NYY	1	2	3
4	5	6 NYY	7 NYY	8	9 BAL	10 BAL
11 BAL	12	13 NYY	14 NYY	15	16 CHW	17 CHW
18 CHW	19	20 BAL	21 BAL	22 BAL	23 CHW	24 CHW
25 CHW	26	27 BOS	28 BOS	29 BOS	30 OAK	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 OAK
2 OAK	3 TEX	4 TEX	5 TEX	6 ANA	7 ANA	8 ANA
9 ANA	10	11 TEX	12 TEX	13 TEX	14 CLE	15 CLE
16 CLE	17	18 BOS	19 BOS	20 BOS	21 CLE	22 CLE
23 CLE	24	25 MIN	26 MIN	27 MIN	28 NYY	29 NYY
30 NYY	31 MIN					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 MIN	2 MIN	3 MIN	4 BAL	5 BAL
6 BAL	7	8 SF	9 SF	10 SF	11 COL	12 COL
13 COL	14	15 SD	16 SD	17 SD	18 ARI	19 ARI
20 ARI	21	22 TOR	23 TOR	24 TOR	25 FLA	26 FLA
27 FLA	28 TOR	29 TOR	30 TOR			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 TOR	2 FLA	3 FLA
4 FLA	5 BAL	6 BAL	7 BAL	8 NYY	9 NYY	10 NYY
11 NYY	12	13 All-Star	14	15 BAL	16 BAL	17 BAL
18 BAL	19 NYY	20 NYY	21 MIN	22 MIN	23 TOR	24 TOR
25 TOR	26	27 KC	28 KC	29 KC	30 TOR	31 TOR

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 TOR	2 BOS	3 BOS	4 BOS	5 SEA	6 SEA	7 SEA
8 SEA	9 BOS	10 BOS	11 BOS	12 BOS	13 TEX	14 TEX
15 TEX	16	17 ANA	18 ANA	19 ANA	20 OAK	21 OAK
22 OAK	23 SEA	24 SEA	25 SEA	26	27 OAK	28 OAK
29 OAK	30	31 BAL				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 BAL	2 BAL	3 DET	4 DET
5 DET	6 NYY	7 NYY	8 NYY	9 NYY	10 KC	11 KC
12 KC	13	14 BOS	15 BOS	16 BOS	17 TOR	18 TOR
19 TOR	20 KC	21 KC	22 KC	23	24 TOR	25 TOR
26 TOR	27 BOS	28 BOS	29 BOS	30		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 DET	2 DET
3 DET	4	5	6	7	8	9

† Tokyo, Japan

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Lou Piniella (14). Coaches: Lee Elia (4), Tom Foley (16), Billy Hatcher (2), Chuck Hernandez (55), John McLaren (7), Matt Sinatro (15).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
34	Abbott, Paul	R/R	6-2/203	36	Tucson	3-4	3.95	11/8	0	54.2	63	29	24	12	50
					Kansas City	1-2	5.29	10/8	0	47.2	47	29	28	26	32
28	Baez, Danys	R/R	6-3/225	26	Cleveland	2-9	3.81	73/0	25	75.2	65	36	32	23	66
41	Bell, Rob	R/R	6-5/225	27	Durham	6-4	4.02	12/12	0	71.2	72	33	32	15	48
					Tampa Bay	5-4	5.52	19/18	0	101.0	103	64	62	39	44
45	Brazelton, Dewon	R/R	6-4/214	23	Durham	2-2	4.21	5/5	0	25.2	23	14	12	11	18
					Tampa Bay	1-6	6.89	10/10	0	48.1	57	49	37	23	24
					Bakersfield	1-5	5.26	9/9	0	49.2	62	33	29	19	42
					Orlando	2-0	2.53	2/2	0	10.2	8	6	3	8	5
38	Carter, Lance	R/R	6-1/190	29	Tampa Bay	7-5	4.33	62/0	26	79.0	72	39	38	19	47
49	Colome, Jesus	R/R	6-4/205	26	Tampa Bay	3-7	4.50	54/0	2	74.0	69	37	37	46	69
68	Fortunato, Bart.	R/R	6-1/180	29	Durham	1-2	3.32	5/4	0	21.2	15	11	8	11	20
					Orlando	4-2	3.06	35/1	1	53.0	48	25	18	20	63
50	Gaudin, Chad	R/R	5-11/165	21	Bakersfield	5-3	2.13	14/14	0	80.1	63	23	19	23	70
					Orlando	2-0	0.47	3/3	0	19.0	8	1	1	3	23
					Tampa Bay	2-0	3.60	15/3	0	40.0	37	18	16	16	23
54	Gonzalez, Jeremi	R/R	6-0/220	29	Durham	1-0	2.53	7/6	0	32.0	24	11	9	6	33
					Tampa Bay	6-11	3.91	25/25	0	156.1	131	71	68	69	97
52	Halama, John	L/L	6-5/215	32	Oakland	3-5	4.22	35/13	0	108.2	117	68	51	36	51
58	Harper, Travis	R/R	6-4/192	27	Tampa Bay	4-8	3.77	61/0	1	93.0	86	45	39	31	64
30	Hendrickson, M.	L/L	6-9/230	29	Syracuse	0-0	4.50	1/1	0	6.0	8	4	3	1	5
					Dunedin	1-0	1.59	1/1	0	5.2	5	2	1	4	3
					Toronto	9-9	5.51	30/30	0	158.1	207	111	97	40	76
69	Hines, Carlos	R/R	6-3/190	23	Charleston-SC	1-0	1.46	30/0	16	37.0	25	6	6	9	25
					Bakersfield	1-1	2.77	25/0	8	26.0	22	10	8	13	23
					Orlando	0-1	9.00	2/0	0	3.0	5	3	3	1	2
37	McClung, Seth	L/R	6-6/235	23	Tampa Bay	4-1	5.35	12/5	0	38.2	33	23	23	25	25
	Miller, Trever	L/R	6-4/195	30	Toronto	2-2	4.61	79/0	4	52.2	46	30	27	28	44
27	Seay, Bobby	L/L	6-2/235	25	Tampa Bay	0-0	3.00	12/0	0	9.0	7	3	3	6	5
					Durham	3-0	2.10	25/0	0	30.0	23	10	7	15	29
59	Sosa, Jorge	B/R	6-2/170	26	Durham	1-1	5.47	4/4	0	24.2	32	15	15	9	17
					Tampa Bay	5-12	4.62	29/19	0	128.2	137	71	66	60	72
53	Standridge, Jason	R/R	6-4/230	25	Tampa Bay	0-5	6.37	8/7	0	35.1	38	25	25	16	20
					Durham	2-4	4.50	12/10	1	60.0	62	32	30	28	37
43	Switzer, Jon	L/L	6-3/191	24	Orlando	8-8	3.43	22/22	0	126.0	117	63	48	32	100
					Durham	1-0	1.80	1/1	0	5.0	6	1	1	0	3
					Tampa Bay	0-0	7.45	5/0	0	9.2	13	8	8	3	7
40	Waechter, Doug	R/R	6-4/209	23	Orlando	5-3	4.13	13/12	0	76.1	74	39	35	19	45
					Durham	3-3	3.33	10/10	0	51.1	51	25	19	12	35
					Tampa Bay	3-2	3.31	6/5	0	35.1	29	13	13	15	29
21	White, Matt	R/L	6-5/235	25	Sarasota	0-0	0.00	2/2	0	5.0	6	1	0	1	2
					Portland	0-0	0.00	2/1	0	3.0	1	1	0	2	3
					Pawtucket	0-0	0.00	2/0	0	3.1	1	1	0	0	5
					Orlando	0-4	7.47	7/7	0	31.1	40	34	26	23	18
					Buffalo	2-3	2.13	19/1	0	42.1	36	12	10	16	34
47	Zambrano, Victor	R/R	6-0/203	28	Durham	0-1	4.50	1/1	0	4.0	4	6	2	2	6
					Tampa Bay	12-10	4.21	34/28	0	188.1	165	97	88	106	132
46	Zumwalt, Alec	R/R	6-2/205	23	Myrtle Beach	5-2	2.22	30/0	6	44.2	29	11	11	16	43
					Greenville	1-1	1.42	11/0	0	19.0	13	3	3	12	19

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
26	Fordyce, Brook	R/R	6-0/194	33	Baltimore	.273	108	348	28	95	12	2	6	31	19	44	2
44	Hall, Toby	R/R	6-3/240	28	Tampa Bay	.253	130	463	50	117	23	0	12	47	23	40	0
39	LaForest, Pete	L/R	6-2/208	26	Orlando	.250	21	72	9	18	8	0	3	15	16	17	0
					Durham	.269	61	201	40	54	14	2	14	38	36	56	2
					Tampa Bay	.167	19	48	0	8	2	0	0	6	1	14	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
11	Blum, Geoff	B/R	6-3/200	30	Houston	.262	123	420	51	110	19	0	10	52	20	50	0
	Fick, Robert	L/R	6-1/205	30	Atlanta	.269	126	409	52	110	26	1	11	80	42	47	1
23	Lugo, Julio	R/R	6-1/170	28	Houston	.246	22	65	6	16	3	0	0	2	9	12	2
					Tampa Bay	.275	117	433	58	119	13	4	15	53	35	88	10
24	Martinez, Tino	L/R	6-2/230	36	St. Louis	.273	138	476	66	130	25	2	15	69	53	71	1
9	Perez, Antonio	R/R	5-11/170	24	Orlando	.272	24	81	16	22	5	1	2	10	18	18	3
					Durham	.284	34	134	27	38	12	2	6	20	10	38	3
					Tampa Bay	.248	48	125	19	31	6	1	2	12	18	34	4
33	Perez, Eduardo	R/R	6-4/215	34	St. Louis	.285	105	253	47	72	16	0	11	41	29	53	5
10	Rolls, Damian	R/R	6-2/215	26	Durham	.247	18	77	11	19	4	1	0	9	4	15	4
					Tampa Bay	.255	107	373	43	95	20	0	7	46	19	84	11
1	Sanchez, Rey	R/R	5-9/170	36	Binghamton	.111	3	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
					New York N.L.	.207	56	174	11	36	3	1	0	12	8	18	1
					Seattle	.294	46	170	22	50	5	1	0	11	8	21	1

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
5	Baldelli, Rocco	R/R	6-4/190	22	Tampa Bay	.289	156	637	89	184	32	8	11	78	30	128	27
13	Crawford, Carl	L/L	6-2/219	22	Tampa Bay	.281	151	630	80	177	18	9	5	54	26	102	55
22	Cruz, Jose	B/R	6-0/210	29	San Francisco	.250	158	539	90	135	26	1	20	68	102	121	5
60	Gomes, Jonny	R/R	6-1/205	23	Orlando	.249	120	442	68	110	28	3	17	56	53	148	23
					Durham	.316	5	19	2	6	2	1	0	1	2	5	0
31	Hamilton, Josh	L/L	6-4/205	22	Did Not Play												
19	Huff, Aubrey	L/R	6-4/231	27	Tampa Bay	.311	162	636	91	198	47	3	34	107	53	80	2
	Young, Delmon	R/R	6-2/205	18	Did Not Play												

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Ken Cloude, P William Glenn, RHP Dicky Gonzalez, SS Deivi Cruz, C-IF Edwards Guzman, IF Jason Maxwell, OF Anton French, OF Joey Gathright.

TEXAS

PROJECTED A.L. WEST FINISH: 4TH

RANGERS

By Jesse Sanchez/MLB.com

The signs were there before the 2003 season began and there were no doubts when it ended. Call it unofficially official.

The love affair between Rangers owner Tom Hicks' money and his desire to build a baseball champion is on the rocks. And there does not appear to be any reconciliation in sight.

The relationship was public and sometimes controversial. But Hicks' effort to compete against New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner on the free-agent market was woefully unsuccessful. It started with the signing of Alex Rodriguez to a whopping contract and ended three seasons later with the Rangers finishing last in the A.L. West for a fourth consecutive season.

With that in mind, veterans Juan Gonzalez, Rafael Palmeiro and Ivan Rodriguez were sent packing and youth—in the form of Mark Teixeira, Hank Blalock, Michael Young, Laynce Nix and Kevin Mench, among others—is being served. Not coincidentally, the money is not.

The Rangers will have a payroll from $70 to $75 million in 2004, which is about $30 million less than the $105 million payrolls of the previous two seasons.

Rangers general manager John Hart enters the final year of his three-year contract with his successor (assistant G.M. Grady Fuson) already named and following a plan initiated by former G.M. Doug Melvin before he was fired.

Hicks, who was deeply involved in failed offseason negotiations that would have sent Rodriguez to the Boston Red Sox for Manny Ramirez, has forced himself to remain silent recently while working in partnership with Hart and second-year manager Buck Showalter.

MANAGER The departure of several high-profile veterans is a sign that this is Showalter's team.

He has the support of Hicks and Hart, so Showalter's directive to "change the culture" of the Rangers comes without limitations—excluding financial, of course. Look for Showalter to take full advantage of the opportunity.

The biggest challenges facing Showalter come from an unproven pitching staff and a largely untested core of players. This could be another trying year, or it could be fun and exciting, depending on whether his young players build on their experience.

For most of 2003, Showalter had to weigh the option of giving his younger players experience against putting the best team on the field. That will not be the case in 2004. The new season will be all about winning, no matter who is playing.

Rangers fans, no doubt, will be looking for Showalter to demonstrate the same magic he used to make winners out of the Yankees and Diamondbacks. **GRADE: B**

TSNUMBER

603

Walks allowed in 2003. The team also had a big-league worst 5.67 ERA. Free passes at The Ballpark in Arlington are dangerous.

Whether swinging a bat or turning the double play, it doesn't get any better than Rodriguez at short.

ROBERT SEALE/TSN

ROTATION Nothing will change for this team until the starting pitching questions are answered with performance. Youth and inexperience add up every season to inconsistency and disappointment. But, as usual, there is hope.

Colby Lewis, a hard-throwing righthander, was 6-2 over his final nine starts—4-0 with a 4.55 ERA in September. Some believe the one-time crown jewel of the organization still has the stuff to be a potential No. 1 starter. The Rangers are counting on him to build on his 10-win 2003 season.

What R.A. Dickey lacks in velocity, command and stuff, he makes up for with grit. One of the few feel-good stories for the Rangers in 2003, Dickey earned the respect of fans and coaches with his hard-nosed determination and never-say-die attitude. In a more established rotation, he might be the fifth or sixth option; on the Rangers' staff, the righthander serves as an inspiration and leader. He also can pitch if needed out of the bullpen.

Behind Lewis and Dickey are three wild cards: Joaquin Benoit, Chan Ho Park and Ricardo Rodriguez.

Benoit has shown flashes with his sinking, mid-90s fastball. He sometimes pitches with poise; other times he has costly mental lapses. Benoit excelled in the bullpen after failed attempts as a starter last season—primarily, coaches believe, because he was forced to be ready immediately and did not have to overanalyze hitters. He sometimes psyches himself out.

Which Park will show up is a huge question. Park, who could bring a much-needed veteran presence to the rotation, used to chew up innings and averaged 15 wins over a five-year span in the National League. But he has failed to adjust to the A.L. because of injuries and, some think, lack of mental toughness. Park can no longer reach the mid-90s with his fastball and he has struggled to change from a power pitcher to a finesse specialist. If his curveball fails him, Park could be in for a rough year.

The Rangers are counting on 25-year-old righthander Rodriguez to fill out the rotation. Showalter will be looking for the former hot Cleveland prospect to regain top form after a lost 2003 campaign. This could be a long shot. But Rodriguez is healthy after missing most of last season with a surgically repaired hip. **GRADE: C-**

BULLPEN This has been a team sore spot since Jeff Zimmerman went down with elbow problems in 2002. Forced out of their familiar roles, Rangers relievers struggled through a difficult 2003 season and short outings by starters led to overwork and fatigue.

The success of this year's unit will have a direct correlation to the development and talent of closer Francisco Cordero. If the hard-throwing righthander can solidify that area, the roles of the remaining relievers—particularly Jay Powell, Ron Mahay, Rosman Garcia and Reynaldo Garcia—will fall into place.

Soft-tossing lefthander Erasmo Ramirez was a pleasant surprise in 2003 and could fit into the picture again if he continues his fearless approach. Powell's new sidearm delivery, combined with his tough mental makeup and leadership, makes him an important piece of the bullpen equation.

Rookie Juan Dominguez, who boasts a hard fastball and an above-average changeup, could make a contribution regardless of whether he masters a curveball.

With an offensive power decline a good possibility in 2004, it will be extremely important for the young relief corps to hold leads. **GRADE: C**

CATCHING Einar Diaz is coming off a solid season, but the Rangers do not have much depth. After Diaz, they will look to journeymen Ken Huckaby and Danny Ardoin for backup help.

Diaz was streaky en route to a .257 season, but he showed enough to convince management he could become an offensive threat. He was solid defensively and ranked third among A.L. catchers by throwing out 22 of 31 would-be basestealers.

The club also will take a good look at 24-year-old Gerald Laird, who makes the best of his average arm and can run the bases better than the average catcher. The Rangers have stopped short of naming Laird their catcher of the future, but he eventually will be given that opportunity. **GRADE: C**

INFIELD This is the building block of the franchise—and it all starts with Rodriguez, who has won three straight A.L. home run titles. The reigning league MVP is the centerpiece of the infield, the team's on-field leader and its statistical star.

But as good as Rodriguez is, he needs offensive help. And that could be a challenge in 2004 with the loss of such big bats as Gonzalez, Palmeiro and Carl Everett.

Third baseman Hank Blalock, the hero in

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A 15-win season for RHP **Colby Lewis**. Lewis has developed into a young power pitcher and he has begun to effectively utilize his breaking pitch. Maturity will help him dominate hitters.
2. Thirty-homer seasons for 3B **Hank Blalock** and 1B **Mark Teixeira**. With SS **Alex Rodriguez** and RF **Brian Jordan** between them in the order, they'll see more strikes and increase their power potential.
3. At least 10 wins for RHP **Chan Ho Park**. Injuries have plagued the one-time power pitcher, but the fact that he has not thrown in a game since June could work in his favor because he will be rested.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

What I have heard is the Rangers don't have pitching, but they really do. I've seen good young arms on the staff, and a few of their guys are very impressive. Hopefully, Joaquin Benoit and Colby Lewis will at some point turn the corner and be the pitchers everybody in baseball thinks they can be. (The Rangers) have good young arms, but they have not proven themselves or pitched consistently. It's time to stop making excuses and just pitch. ... The most exciting player to watch is Ramon Nivar, and I don't think they really gave him a chance in the outfield. If they give him the opportunity to relax and learn to play center field, he's going to be a special guy. Look for him. ... Their strength is their corner players—Mark Teixeira and Hank Blalock. If those two guys stay in the organization, the Rangers will possess some of the best offensive potential in the game. ... They are not strong at the catcher position.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Michael Young, 2B	**5**
Aggressive hitter likes to put ball in play.	
2. Hank Blalock, 3B	**6**
Finally will get chance to face lefties regularly.	
3. Alex Rodriguez, SS	**8**
Expect another MVP-caliber season.	
4. Brian Jordan, RF	**5**
Hard-nosed run producer balances the lineup.	
5. Mark Teixeira, 1B	**6**
Wants to show rookie season was not a fluke.	
6. Brad Fullmer, DH	**5**
Will remain in the lineup if his bat gets hot.	
7. Kevin Mench, LF	**5**
Has something to prove after battling injuries.	
8. Laynce Nix, CF	**5**
Has power to right, but can he hit to all fields?	
9. Einar Diaz, C	**4**
Fine defender is improving at the plate.	
Starters	
1. Colby Lewis, RH	**4**
Has potential to be the club's long-term No. 1.	
2. R.A. Dickey, RH	**4**
Mentality, not his stuff, earned him a spot.	
3. Joaquin Benoit, RH	**4**
Can start or relieve but prone to mental lapses.	
4. Chan Ho Park, RH	**3**
Any contribution will be welcome.	
5. Ricardo Rodriguez, RH	**4**
One-time hot prospect must eat innings.	
Closer	
Francisco Cordero, RH	**6**
Fastballer could offer security.	
Total	**74**

last year's All-Star Game, has developed into a bona fide big-league hitter. And his defense continues to improve. Mark Teixeira, an above-average defender, will take over at first base and try to build on the 26-homer, 84-RBI numbers he posted as a rookie. The switch hitter also is versatile enough to play in the outfield. The challenge for this dynamic duo will be to duplicate their offensive performances as everyday players without as much protection in the lineup.

Rangers Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.266	.267
Runs	826	788
Hits	1506	1495
Home runs	239	179
Stolen bases	65	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	5.67	4.52
Complete games	4	8
Saves	43	38
Walks	603	508
Strikeouts	1009	981
Errors	94	105

WINS AND LOSSES

71-91 (4th in A.L. West), 43-38 at home, 28-53 on road, 22-23 vs. A.L. East, 21-20 vs. A.L. Central, 24-34 vs. A.L. West, 4-14 vs. N.L., 21-35 vs. LH starters, 50-56 vs. RH starters, 64-80 on grass, 7-11 on turf, 17-22 in daytime, 54-69 at night, 17-20 in one-run games, 5-7 in extra-inning games, 0-0-0 in doubleheaders.
Buck Showalter's record: 71-91, 1 season with Rangers; 634-595, 8 seasons (Yankees, Diamondbacks, Rangers).
Postseason: 3-6, 2 seasons (Yankees, Diamondbacks).
Team record past five years: 382-428 (.472, ranks 20th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: OF David Dellucci (FA/Yankees), IF Brad Fullmer (FA/Angels), OF Brian Jordan (FA/Dodgers), OF Jason Tyner (waivers/Devil Rays), IF/OF Eric Young (FA/Giants).
Losses: IF Andy Fox (Rule 5 draft/Expos), LHP Aaron Fultz (FA), OF Juan Gonzalez (FA/Royals), C Todd Greene (FA/Rockies), 1B Rafael Palmeiro (FA), OF Shane Spencer (FA), RHP John Thomson (FA/Braves), RHP Ismael Valdes (FA/Padres).

MEDIA

Radio: KRLD-AM (1080), KESS-AM (1270, Spanish)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Southwest
Website: rangers.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Oklahoma (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Frisco (Texas)
Class A: Stockton (California), Clinton (Midwest), Spokane (Northwest)
Rookie: Gulf Coast Rangers (Gulf Coast)

The Ballpark in Arlington

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 49,115
Ticket information: 817-273-5100

Spring training: Surprise Stadium (Surprise, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 623-594-5600

Hank Blalock
DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

Michael Young has developed into a Gold Glove-caliber defender at second base and one of the top table-setters in the game. He batted .306 last season, scored 106 runs and racked up 204 hits, changing Showalter's mind about a move to the outfield. Young, who is a good enough hitter to be used in either the No. 1 or 2 slots in the order, could soon rank among the game's top offensive catalysts.

Another Young, longtime N.L. second baseman Eric, was signed to provide backup protection for both the infield and outfield. He is a .285 career hitter who could see extended playing time. Lefthanded-hitting Brad Fullmer and righthanded-hitting Herbert Perry will see significant time at designated hitter and the backups at first base. **GRADE: A**

OUTFIELD Laynce Nix, a 23-year-old who made his major league debut last July, will get first shot at center field in spacious The Ballpark in Arlington. Nix has above-average arm strength and speed and a lefthanded bat that should eventually provide consistency and power. If Nix should require more seasoning, look for speedy Eric Young to get the call over such young hopefuls as Jason Conti, Jason Tyner and Ramon Nivar.

The Rangers answered their right field question by signing veteran free agent Brian Jordan, a solid offensive and defensive player who has struggled with injuries throughout his 12-year career. Jordan, who will be 37 by opening day, played only 66 games for the Los Angeles Dodgers last season because of knee surgery. But when Jordan is healthy, he is a hard-nosed competitor and top-notch run producer who can also provide clubhouse leadership.

Kevin Mench had his impressive moments as a rookie last season and will get first shot at left field if his injured wrist is healed. But Showalter has expressed doubts about his defense and will not hesitate to turn to free-agent signee David Dellucci if Mench should falter.

If Mench does make the grade, Dellucci will become a frequently used fourth outfielder. **GRADE: C**

Jesse Sanchez covers the Rangers for MLB.com.

Rangers Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 OAK	6 OAK	7 OAK	8	9 ANA	10 ANA
11 ANA	12 ANA	13 OAK	14 OAK	15 OAK	16 SEA	17 SEA
18 SEA	19	20 ANA	21 ANA	22 ANA	23 SEA	24 SEA
25 SEA	26	27 KC	28 KC	29 KC	30 BOS	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 BOS
2 BOS	3 TB	4 TB	5 TB	6	7 DET	8 DET
9 DET	10	11 TB	12 TB	13 TB	14 DET	15 DET
16 DET	17	18 KC	19 KC	20 KC	21 NYY	22 NYY
23 NYY	24	25 CHW	26 CHW	27 CHW	28 TOR	29 TOR
30 TOR	31					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 CLE	2 CLE	3	4 NYY	5 NYY
6 NYY	7 PIT	8 PIT	9 PIT	10	11 STL	12 STL
13 STL	14	15 CIN	16 CIN	17 CIN	18 FLA	19 FLA
20 FLA	21	22 SEA	23 SEA	24 SEA	25 HOU	26 HOU
27 HOU	28 SEA	29 SEA	30 SEA			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 SEA	2 HOU	3 HOU
4 HOU	5 CLE	6 CLE	7 CLE	8 CLE	9 BOS	10 BOS
11 BOS	12	13 All-Star	14	15	16 TOR	17 TOR
18 TOR	19 CHW	20 CHW	21 ANA	22 ANA	23 OAK	24 OAK
25 OAK	26 ANA	27 ANA	28 ANA	29 OAK	30 OAK	31 OAK

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 OAK	2	3 DET	4 DET	5 DET	6 BAL	7 BAL
8 BAL	9 BAL	10 NYY	11 NYY	12 NYY	13 TB	14 TB
15 TB	16 CLE	17 CLE	18 CLE	19	20 KC	21 KC
22 KC	23 MIN	24 MIN	25 MIN	26 MIN	27 BAL	28 BAL
29 BAL	30	31 MIN				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 MIN	2 MIN	3 BOS	4 BOS
5 BOS	6 CHW	7 CHW	8 CHW	9 CHW	10 TOR	11 TOR
12 TOR	13 OAK	14 OAK	15 OAK	16 OAK	17 ANA	18 ANA
19 ANA	20	21 OAK	22 OAK	23 OAK	24 SEA	25 SEA
26 SEA	27 ANA	28 ANA	29 ANA	30 ANA		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 SEA	2 SEA
3 SEA	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Buck Showalter (11). Coaches: Mark Connor (52), DeMarlo Hale (20), Orel Hershiser (55), Rudy Jaramillo (8), Steve Smith (1), Don Wakamatsu (18).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
53	Benoit, Joaquin	R/R	6-3/205	26	Oklahoma	2-1	3.82	6/6	0	33.0	28	17	14	11	31
					Texas	8-5	5.49	25/17	0	105.0	99	67	64	51	87
36	Callaway, Mickey	R/R	6-2/205	28	Salt Lake	1-0	2.95	7/4	0	21.1	22	8	7	6	10
					Anaheim	1-4	6.81	17/4	0	38.1	57	32	29	16	22
					Oklahoma	2-0	1.59	4/4	0	17.0	16	6	3	5	9
					Texas	0-3	6.45	6/3	0	22.1	27	18	16	8	19
31	Cordero, Francisco	R/R	6-2/200	28	Texas	5-8	2.94	73/0	15	82.2	70	33	27	38	90
45	Dickey, R.A.	R/R	6-3/205	29	Oklahoma	1-1	1.20	3/2	0	15.0	14	3	2	3	4
					Texas	9-8	5.09	38/13	1	116.2	135	68	66	38	94
	Dominguez, Juan	R/R	6-2/180	23	Stockton	4-0	2.84	16/9	1	63.1	55	27	20	16	72
					Oklahoma	1-0	3.50	3/3	0	18.0	15	7	7	3	14
					Frisco	5-0	2.60	9/9	0	55.1	35	17	16	21	54
					Texas	0-2	7.16	6/3	0	16.1	16	14	13	12	13
37	Drese, Ryan	R/R	6-3/220	27	Frisco	1-1	4.00	2/2	0	9.0	10	4	4	0	8
					Oklahoma	8-6	4.65	20/20	0	122.0	143	70	63	39	68
					Texas	2-4	6.85	11/8	0	46.0	61	42	35	24	26
56	Garcia, Rosman	R/R	6-2/160	25	Oklahoma	1-2	1.91	17/2	10	28.1	20	7	6	6	21
					Texas	1-2	6.02	46/0	0	46.1	63	33	31	23	25
	Hughes, Travis	R/R	6-5/215	25	Frisco	4-8	4.99	24/10	0	74.0	81	47	41	26	58
					Oklahoma	1-3	5.46	11/11	0	57.2	79	41	35	27	36
56	Kozlowski, Ben	L/L	6-6/220	23	Frisco	3-2	5.43	11/10	0	54.2	71	38	33	27	29
48	Lewis, Colby	R/R	6-4/230	24	Oklahoma	5-1	3.02	7/7	0	47.2	36	16	16	19	43
					Texas	10-9	7.30	26/26	0	127.0	163	104	103	70	88
	Mabeus, Chris	R/R	6-3/210	25	Modesto	2-0	1.52	18/0	2	23.2	19	6	4	6	30
32	Mahay, Ron	L/L	6-2/190	32	Oklahoma	4-2	4.22	26/0	3	42.2	36	21	20	10	51
					Texas	3-3	3.18	35/0	0	45.1	33	19	16	20	38
	Moreno, Edwin	R/R	6-1/170	23	Frisco	6-5	3.29	29/15	0	112.0	105	50	41	33	74
61	Park, Chan Ho	R/R	6-2/204	30	Frisco	1-0	2.45	2/2	0	11.0	10	5	3	4	6
					Oklahoma	1-0	5.89	3/3	0	18.1	27	12	12	8	12
					Texas	1-3	7.58	7/7	0	29.2	34	26	25	25	16
39	Powell, Jay	R/R	6-4/225	32	Frisco	0-0	2.70	4/0	1	6.2	5	2	2	5	8
					Texas	3-0	7.82	51/0	0	58.2	75	58	51	34	40
54	Ramirez, Erasmo	L/L	6-0/180	27	Frisco	1-0	6.00	3/0	0	3.0	4	2	2	1	4
					Oklahoma	2-1	1.53	22/0	4	35.1	36	8	6	2	20
					Texas	3-1	3.86	34/0	0	49.0	46	21	21	9	28
	Regilio, Nick	R/R	6-2/185	25	G.C. Rangers	0-0	0.00	2/2	0	5.0	4	2	0	1	7
	Rodriguez, Ricardo	R/R	6-3/190	25	Cleveland	3-9	5.73	15/15	0	81.2	89	57	52	28	41
					Buffalo	0-1	4.32	2/2	0	8.1	6	4	4	3	7
58	Shouse, Brian	L/L	5-11/180	35	Oklahoma	0-1	3.68	6/0	1	7.1	8	3	3	3	2
					Texas	0-1	3.10	62/0	1	61.0	62	24	21	14	40
	Snare, Ryan	L/L	6-0/190	25	Frisco	4-5	3.46	9/9	0	54.2	59	26	21	13	28
					Carolina	5-4	3.67	18/18	0	103.0	98	46	42	37	77
59	Zimmerman, Jeff	R/R	6-1/200	31	G.C. Rangers	0-0	0.00	3/3	0	3.0	0	0	0	0	2

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
5	Diaz, Einar	R/R	5-10/195	31	Texas	.257	101	334	30	86	14	1	4	35	9	32	3
	Laird, Gerald	R/R	6-2/195	24	Oklahoma	.260	99	338	50	88	20	5	9	42	37	61	9
					Texas	.273	19	44	9	12	2	1	1	4	5	11	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
9	Blalock, Hank	L/R	6-1/192	23	Texas	.300	143	567	89	170	33	3	29	90	44	97	2
	Bourgeios, Jason	L/L	5-9/170	22	Frisco	.252	55	202	28	51	5	4	4	21	16	45	3
					Stockton	.329	69	277	75	91	22	3	4	34	36	33	16
	Fullmer, Brad	L/R	6-0/220	29	Anaheim	.306	63	206	32	63	9	2	9	35	26	31	5
	Gonzalez, Adrian	L/L	6-2/190	21	Albuquerque	.216	39	139	17	30	5	1	1	18	14	25	1
					Carolina	.307	36	137	15	42	9	1	1	16	14	25	1
					Frisco	.283	45	173	16	49	6	2	3	17	11	27	0
13	Lamb, Mike	L/R	6-1/195	28	Texas	.132	28	38	3	5	0	0	0	2	2	7	1
					Oklahoma	.288	73	274	45	79	19	4	9	46	42	45	1
35	Perry, Herbert	R/R	6-2/235	34	Frisco	.324	9	34	5	11	2	0	1	6	3	3	0
					Texas	.167	11	24	1	4	1	0	0	2	0	3	0
3	Rodriguez, Alex	R/R	6-3/210	28	Texas	.298	161	607	124	181	30	6	47	118	87	126	17
23	Teixeira, Mark	B/R	6-2/215	23	Texas	.259	146	529	66	137	29	5	26	84	44	120	1
	Young, Eric	R/R	5-8/186	36	Milwaukee	.260	109	404	71	105	18	1	15	31	48	34	25
					San Francisco	.197	26	71	9	14	2	0	0	3	9	10	3
10	Young, Michael	R/R	6-1/190	27	Texas	.306	160	666	106	204	33	9	14	72	36	103	13

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Dellucci, David	L/L	5-11/189	30	Arizona	.242	70	165	18	40	11	3	2	19	19	45	9
					New York A.L.	.176	21	51	8	9	1	0	1	4	4	13	3
29	Greer, Rusty	L/L	6-0/195	35	Did Not Play												
21	Jones, Jason	B/R	6-3/210	27	Oklahoma	.288	100	375	52	108	29	0	9	55	50	80	7
					Texas	.215	40	107	11	23	6	0	3	11	10	21	0
	Jordan, Brian	R/R	6-1/205	37	Los Angeles	.299	66	224	28	67	9	0	6	28	23	30	1
28	Mench, Kevin	R/R	6-0/230	26	Frisco	.091	3	11	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
					Oklahoma	.267	29	105	16	28	8	0	4	21	19	15	2
					Texas	.320	38	125	15	40	12	0	2	11	10	17	1
2	Nivar, Ramon	R/R	5-10/170	24	Frisco	.347	79	317	53	110	17	4	4	37	20	23	9
					Oklahoma	.337	23	89	11	30	2	2	2	12	5	5	6
					Texas	.211	28	90	9	19	1	2	0	7	4	10	4
17	Nix, Laynce	L/L	6-0/190	23	Frisco	.284	87	335	52	95	23	0	15	63	34	68	9
					Texas	.255	53	184	25	47	10	0	8	30	9	53	3

Spring Training Invitees: IF Manny Alexander, OF Chad Allen, RHP Carlos Almanzar, C Danny Ardoin, LHP Mike Bacsik, LHP Erick Burke, OF Jason Conti, C Ken Huckaby, RHP Erik Sabel, RHP Billy Sylvester, OF Jason Tyner, RHP John Wasdin, RHP Todd Williams.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

PROJECTED A.L. EAST FINISH: 3RD

By Spencer Fordin/MLB.com

Entering the offseason, Toronto was one of the least balanced teams in baseball. Even with A.L. Cy Young winner Roy Halladay at the front of the rotation, the team was heavily tilted toward offense. A few months later, that had changed. The Jays spent the winter building up the pitching staff and head into the new season with a much-improved core.

Toronto used its limited budget to tremendous effect, more or less rebuilding the rotation and bullpen. Will that be enough for the Jays to climb into first or second place in the A.L. East after six straight third-place finishes? That may be asking too much, given the busy winter in Boston and New York, but one thing is certain: The Blue Jays are on the upswing and are in their best shape since the 1994 labor shutdown.

TSNUMBER

894

Runs scored by the Jays in 2003, a franchise record and more than the totals of all but two big-league teams. Most of the lineup returns.

MANAGER Carlos Tosca guided Toronto to an eight-win improvement in his first full season after taking over from Buck Martinez in 2002. That was an impressive achievement in a competitive division. Despite that success, Tosca said he was surprised by how quickly things can change over the course of a 162-game schedule.

He will not be caught off-guard in 2004, when his team will be better armed to last through the season. Tosca managed a thin pitching staff extremely well last season. Now that he has more to work with, he hopes to add 10 to 12 wins on the strength of pitching alone. **GRADE: B**

ROTATION Halladay returns for an encore to his award-winning season and will be flanked by three talented offseason acquisitions: Miguel Batista, Ted Lilly and Pat Hentgen. Halladay was incredibly consistent last season and did not lose from early May to early August, a 15-decision win streak that helped revive his team's season after a rough April. And that wasn't even his best stretch—Halladay sealed his Cy Young run with complete-game wins in five of his final six starts. He led the majors in innings pitched for a second straight season, and he did so by a healthy margin.

After Halladay, the rotation was a disappointment last season. Despite encouraging

Delgado is the enforcer for a team that could sneak up on Boston and New York in the A.L. East.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

starts, Cory Lidle and Tanyon Sturtze were not able to find success. Kelvim Escobar came out of the bullpen to provide a steady presence, but he departed in the offseason for a lucrative contract with the Angels. Batista was brought in to take Escobar's spot and should be more consistent. Plus, Batista has playoff experience from his days with the Diamondbacks, which puts him, Lilly and Hentgen in limited company on Toronto's young roster.

Lilly, the team's only lefthanded starter, was acquired from Oakland in an offseason trade. He has been erratic over the past three seasons, but he still is an upgrade. He also is a former Yankee, so he has plenty of experience against A.L. East opponents.

Hentgen has come back to finish his career where he started it. He was effective with Baltimore in 2003, his first full season since elbow surgery in 2001, but has to be considered an injury risk at age 35.

Fresh off an encouraging September, Josh Towers will round out the rotation. A finesse pitcher, he reclaimed his career in 2003 by winning a roster spot at midseason and finishing strong. Towers has the limitations and strengths of a fifth starter: He is often good enough to beat struggling teams, but he does not inspire much confidence against contenders. **GRADE: B**

BULLPEN The Blue Jays could not find a closer that fit their budget, but they brought in three capable relievers as part of the offseason restructuring. The team signed free agents Kerry Ligtenberg and Terry Adams, and acquired Justin Speier in a three-way trade, adding significantly to its late-game options. The newcomers probably will combine with Aquilino Lopez to get most of Toronto's crucial outs.

Last season, late relief was one of the team's well-defined weak spots: Escobar struggled as a closer and so did his successor, Cliff Politte. Both are gone. Lopez proved to be undaunted under pressure, but the Jays do not want to saddle him with too much responsibility so early in his career.

That's where Speier, Adams and Ligtenberg come in—all have limited experience as closers. Ligtenberg and Adams are setup types who sometimes struggle against lefthanded hitters. Speier has no such weakness. He has thrived in Coors Field, the most perilous ballpark for pitchers, and that bodes well for his future at SkyDome. Speier will get most of Toronto's save opportunities, unless the Jays go with a true bullpen-by-committee approach.

Lefthanders Jason Kershner and Valerio De Los Santos also figure to get late-inning work, but rubber-armed Trever Miller, who led the A.L. in appearances last season, was not re-signed and will have to be replaced. Kershner, who emerged from nowhere and was used for longer stints than Miller, was one of Toronto's biggest surprises. But he could have trouble duplicating that success.

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The hunt for late October. With an easier early season schedule, the Blue Jays should be able to contend from the outset. Toronto will not play the Yankees until after the All-Star break.
2. A return to form by 3B **Eric Hinske**. The lefty slugger was injured much of last season and was not completely comfortable after returning. He will add bite to one of the A.L.'s most dangerous offenses.
3. More big numbers from 1B **Carlos Delgado**. He is entering the final year of his contract, which should give him incentive to improve on his gaudy 2003 statistics.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

They've got that offense and the horse, Roy Halladay. After that, they had some question marks, but they expect a little more consistency from Ted Lilly and Pat Hentgen. ... Carlos Delgado can do it again. I don't think it was a career year. He has always been that type of threat, and he's still at the top of his game. ... Vernon Wells, for me, is past the rise. He's bona fide as a (No. 3) hitter and as a center fielder. His overall game plays right up to the best in the American League. ... As long as Eric Hinske comes back in good shape, I think you'll see the improvement again. He's never going to be Brooks Robinson, but with his work ethic, he'll be fine. ... Kevin Cash can play defense, and any defensive catcher is going to get the opportunity to hit. ... Is Chris Woodward on a club that can survive with him at shortstop? Offensively, they can. Defensively, is he good enough to help out a staff that needs to have some help?

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Reed Johnson, RF	5
Gritty overachiever sets the pace for the offense.	
2. Frank Catalanotto, LF	5
A hit machine with speed and moderate power.	
3. Vernon Wells, CF	7
One of the best young players in baseball.	
4. Carlos Delgado, 1B	7
The best homegrown player in team history.	
5. Eric Hinske, 3B	6
Former Rookie of the Year should rebound.	
6. Josh Phelps, DH	6
Has enormous power but strikes out frequently.	
7. Greg Myers, C	5
Coming off a career year, this may be his last run.	
8. Orlando Hudson, 2B	4
Still developing as a switch hitter.	
9. Chris Woodward, SS	4
Zero patience last season; must improve.	
Starters	
1. Roy Halladay, RH	7
A strong candidate for second straight Cy Young.	
2. Miguel Batista, RH	5
Brings experience and stability behind Halladay.	
3. Ted Lilly, LH	5
Has loads of potential; may struggle at SkyDome.	
4. Pat Hentgen, RH	4
A steadying presence, as long as he's healthy.	
5. Josh Towers, RH	4
Won't beat himself, won't beat you with heat.	
Closer	
Justin Speier, RH	6
Can retire both righthanders and lefthanders.	
Total	**80**

Look for righthander Pete Walker to mount a strong spring bid to make the opening day roster. Walker is an ideal swingman because of his ability to start or relieve on short notice. He was hurt for most of last season, but improved health and a consistent role would benefit him. Talley Haines, Toronto's pick in the Rule 5 draft, also could be a factor. **GRADE: C**

CATCHING Greg Myers enjoyed a career season in 2003 at age 37, and he promptly re-signed with Toronto for an encore. He provided 15 home runs, often batting behind first baseman Carlos Delgado. This year, he likely will have a new platoon partner. Tom Wilson did the job last season, but the Jays are ready to see if Kevin Cash can contribute in the big leagues. Cash has gotten a lot of attention in the minor leagues because of his game-calling and defensive abilities, but he has not been able to hit big-league pitching. This season may be his last chance to grab a key role with the team because Guillermo Quiroz is hot on Cash's heels on the organizational depth chart. With a strong season at Class AAA Syracuse, Quiroz could leap over Cash as Toronto's catcher of the future—if he hasn't already. Down the road, Cash and Quiroz could form a perfect offense-defense platoon.

Wilson's future in the organization is uncertain. He could stick as a third catcher and backup first baseman, but the veteran probably will need a few breaks for that to happen. **GRADE: B**

INFIELD Offensively, Toronto's success begins and ends with Delgado. He already is the franchise's career leader in almost every important category, and he is coming off the best season of his career. Delgado finished 2003 as the runner-up in A.L. MVP voting. He drove in 97 runs by the All-Star break, the third-highest total in league history, and ended up with a career-high 145 RBIs. Delgado has hit at least 30 homers and driven in at least 100 runs for six straight seasons. This will be the final season of his contract, so he will have plenty of motivation to

have another career year.

Josh Phelps, 25, is Toronto's designated hitter and first baseman in waiting, but he has played only a handful of games at the position. Phelps is blessed with enormous power but cursed by frequent swings and misses. Given 600 at-bats, he could hit 35 home runs—and shatter the league's strikeout record.

Orlando Hudson improved by leaps and bounds last season, finishing the year as one of the team's most dependable players. He is one of the league's best defensive second basemen, but he has room to improve at the plate.

At shortstop, Chris Woodward took a step back in 2003, failing to provide steady defense or the expected occasional power. Toronto hopes that he put too much pressure on himself as a first-time starter and that he will blossom this year.

Lefthanded-hitting third baseman Eric Hinske played hard through an injury-marred 2003 season, never complaining or allowing his frustration to interfere with the team theme. Much of his power was sapped by an early-season hand injury, but Hinske should be back in top form by spring training. Nestled in the heart of Toronto's explosive lineup, Hinske is a safe bet for a bounce-back season. **GRADE: C+**

Vernon Wells

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

OUTFIELD Vernon Wells' all-around skills make him one of the best center fielders in the game. Time and again last season, Wells raced deep into the gap to snare a sure double, getting Toronto's pitching staff some well-timed outs. Amazingly, though, his defense is overshadowed by his offense. Batting in front of Delgado, Wells hit .317 with 33 home runs and 117 RBIs. A free-swinging style—he had only 42 walks—is Wells' only weakness, and he is working to eliminate that.

Frank Catalanotto returns in left field, bringing his line-drive stroke to the No. 2 spot in the batting order. Catalanotto was one of Toronto's most consistent offensive players early last season but then had problems with his vision. A great character guy, Catalanotto is low key and deflects praise to his teammates.

Right fielder Reed Johnson matches Catalanotto's consistent everyday effort. Johnson was a revelation in his rookie season, providing a gritty presence in the leadoff spot. He does not draw a lot of walks, but he gets on base in a variety of ways. He lays down bunts, gets hit by pitches and sprays line drives to all fields. He also is the team's most aggressive baserunner. In the field, he covers a lot of ground and displays a strong, accurate arm.

Jayson Werth figures to be the most likely reserve, but there should be an interesting battle in spring training for that spot. Toronto has three top prospects at Class AAA: Alexis Rios, Gabe Gross and John-Ford Griffin. Rios and Gross likely will make their big-league debuts at some point in 2004, which may give Toronto more flexibility on the trade market later in the season. **GRADE: B**

Spencer Fordin covers the Blue Jays for MLB.com.

Blue Jays Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.279	.267
Runs	894	788
Hits	1580	1495
Home runs	190	179
Stolen bases	37	91
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.69	4.52
Complete games	14	8
Saves	36	38
Walks	485	508
Strikeouts	984	981
Errors	117	105

WINS AND LOSSES

86-76 (3rd in A.L. East), 41-40 at home, 45-36 on road, 37-39 vs. A.L. East, 22-14 vs. A.L. Central, 17-15 vs. A.L. West, 10-8 vs. N.L., 25-17 vs. LH starters, 61-59 vs. RH starters, 36-30 on grass, 50-46 on turf, 30-23 in daytime, 56-53 at night, 14-23 in one-run games, 4-4 in extra-inning games, 0-0-0 in doubleheaders.

Carlos Tosca's record: 144-127, 2 seasons with Blue Jays.

Postseason: none.

Team record past five years: 411-399 (.507, ranks 14th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Terry Adams (FA/Phillies), RHP Miguel Batista (FA/Diamondbacks), IF Chris Gomez (FA/Twins), RHP Pat Hentgen (FA/Orioles), RHP Kerry Ligtenberg (FA/Orioles), LHP Ted Lilly (trade/Athletics), RHP Justin Speier (trade/Rockies).

Losses: RHP Juan Acevedo (FA/Pirates), SS Mike Bordick (retired), LHP Doug Creek (FA), RHP Kelvim Escobar (FA/Angels), LHP Mark Hendrickson (trade/Devil Rays), OF Bobby Kielty (trade/Athletics), RHP Cory Lidle (FA/Reds), LHP Trever Miller (FA/Devil Rays), RHP Cliff Politte (FA/White Sox), RHP Tanyon Sturtze (FA/Dodgers).

MEDIA

Radio: The Fan (590)
Cable TV: Rogers SportsNet (RSN)
Website: bluejays.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Syracuse (International)
Class AA: New Haven (Eastern)
Class A: Dunedin (Florida State), Charleston, W.Va. (South Atlantic), Auburn (New York-Pennsylvania)
Rookie: Pulaski (Appalachian)

SkyDome

Turf: Artificial
Capacity: 50,516
Ticket information: 416-341-1234, 888-654-6529

Spring training: Dunedin Stadium at Grant Field (Dunedin, Fla.)
Ticket information: 800-707-8269, 727-733-0429

Blue Jays Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 DET	6 DET	7 DET	8	9 BOS	10 BOS
11 BOS	12	13 DET	14 DET	15 DET	16 BAL	17 BAL
18 BAL	19	20 BOS	21 BOS	22 BOS	23 BAL	24 BAL
25 BAL	26 MIN	27 MIN	28 MIN	29 CHW	30 CHW	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 CHW
2 CHW	3 KC	4 KC	5 KC	6	7 CHW	8 CHW
9 CHW	10 KC	11 KC	12 KC	13 BOS	14 BOS	15 BOS
16 BOS	17 MIN	18 MIN	19 MIN	20	21 BOS	22 BOS
23 BOS	24 ANA	25	26 ANA	27 ANA	28 TEX	29 TEX
30 TEX	31 SEA					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 SEA	2 SEA	3 OAK	4 OAK	5 OAK
6 OAK	7	8 LA	9 LA	10 LA	11 ARI	12 ARI
13 ARI	14	15 SF	16 SF	17 SF	18 SD	19 SD
20 SD	21	22 TB	23 TB	24 TB	25 MON	26 MON
27 MON	28 TB	29 TB	30 TB			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 TB	2 MON *	3 MON *
4 MON *	5	6 SEA	7 SEA	8 SEA	9 ANA	10 ANA
11 ANA	12	13 All-Star	14	15	16 TEX	17 TEX
18 TEX	19 OAK	20 OAK	21 NYY	22 NYY	23 TB	24 TB
25 TB	26 NYY	27 NYY	28 NYY	29	30 TB	31 TB

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 TB	2 CLE	3 CLE	4 CLE	5 CLE	6 NYY	7 NYY
8 NYY	9 NYY	10 CLE	11 CLE	12 CLE	13 BAL	14 BAL
15 BAL	16 BOS	17 BOS	18 BOS	19	20 BAL	21 BAL
22 BAL	23 BOS	24 BOS	25 BOS	26 NYY	27 NYY	28 NYY
29 NYY	30	31 SEA				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 SEA	2 SEA	3 OAK	4 OAK
5 OAK	6	7 ANA	8 ANA	9 ANA	10 TEX	11 TEX
12 TEX	13 BAL	14	15 BAL	16 BAL	17 TB	18 TB
19 TB	20	21 NYY	22 NYY	23 NYY	24 TB	25 TB
26 TB	27 BAL	28 BAL	29 BAL	30 BAL		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 NYY	2 NYY
3 NYY	4	5	6	7	8	9

* San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Carlos Tosca (14). Coaches: Mike Barnett (56), Brian Butterfield (55), John Gibbons (58), Gil Patterson (47), Bruce Walton (52).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	Adams, Terry	R/R	6-3/215	31	Philadelphia	1-4	2.65	66/0	0	68.0	68	22	20	23	51
	Arnold, Jason	R/R	6-3/210	24	New Haven	3-1	1.53	6/6	0	35.1	18	7	6	11	33
					Syracuse	4-8	4.33	21/20	0	120.2	121	69	58	46	82
	Batista, Miguel	R/R	6-1/197	33	Arizona	10-9	3.54	36/29	0	193.1	197	85	76	60	142
	Chulk, Vinnie	R/R	6-2/195	25	Syracuse	8-10	4.22	23/21	0	119.1	118	70	56	46	90
					Toronto	0-0	5.06	3/0	0	5.1	6	3	3	3	2
	de los Santos, V.	L/L	6-2/218	31	Milwaukee	3-3	4.13	45/0	1	48.0	38	24	22	22	35
					Philadelphia	1-0	9.00	6/0	0	4.0	7	7	4	3	4
36	File, Bob	R/R	6-4/215	27	Dunedin	0-0	3.00	3/2	0	3.0	3	1	1	2	7
					Syracuse	0-0	4.22	11/0	0	10.2	10	5	5	2	7
	Haines, Talley	R/R	6-3/205	27	Durham	5-3	2.53	50/0	2	67.2	57	19	19	11	64
32	Halladay, Roy	R/R	6-6/230	26	Toronto	22-7	3.25	36/36	0	266.0	253	111	96	32	204
	Hanson, D.J.	R/R	5-11/175	23	Charleston-WV	10-10	2.54	25/25	0	138.1	110	51	39	56	113
	Harper, Jesse	R/R	6-4/210	23	Dunedin	13-4	2.54	26/24	0	131.0	112	41	37	31	100
	Hentgen, Pat	R/R	6-2/195	35	Baltimore	7-8	4.09	28/22	1	160.2	150	74	73	58	100
46	Kershner, Jason	L/L	6-2/165	27	Syracuse	6-1	2.36	24/0	0	45.2	42	15	12	9	30
					Toronto	3-3	3.17	40/0	0	54.0	43	21	19	15	32
	Ligtenberg, Kerry	R/R	6-2/222	32	Baltimore	4-2	3.34	68/0	1	59.1	60	23	22	14	47
	Lilly, Ted	L/L	6-1/190	28	Oakland	12-10	4.34	32/31	0	178.1	179	92	86	58	147
	Lopez, Aquilino	R/R	6-3/165	28	Toronto	1-3	3.42	72/0	14	73.2	58	31	28	34	64
	McGowan, Dustin	R/R	6-3/220	22	Dunedin	5-6	2.85	14/14	0	75.2	62	29	24	25	66
					New Haven	7-0	3.17	14/14	0	76.2	78	28	27	19	72
34	Miller, Justin	R/R	6-2/195	26	Dunedin	0-1	4.50	1/1	0	6.0	3	3	3	2	5
	Rosario, Francisco	R/R	6-0/195	23				Did Not Play							
	Speier, Justin	R/R	6-4/205	30	Colorado	3-1	4.05	72/0	9	73.1	73	37	33	23	66
	Towers, Josh	R/R	6-1/188	27	Syracuse	5-7	3.32	21/20	0	132.2	133	55	49	20	76
					Toronto	8-1	4.48	14/8	1	64.1	67	34	32	7	42

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
29	Cash, Kevin	R/R	6-0/185	26	Syracuse	.270	93	326	37	88	28	2	8	37	29	81	1
					Toronto	.142	34	106	10	15	3	0	1	8	4	22	0
28	Myers, Greg	L/R	6-2/225	37	Toronto	.307	121	329	51	101	19	0	15	52	37	57	0
	Quiroz, Guillermo	R/R	6-1/202	22	New Haven	.282	108	369	63	104	27	0	20	79	45	83	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
2	Berg, Dave	R/R	5-11/185	33	Syracuse	.250	6	20	3	5	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
					Toronto	.255	61	161	26	41	6	1	4	18	11	34	0
6	Clark, Howie	L/R	5-10/191	30	Syracuse	.258	66	252	29	65	14	1	4	30	21	20	1
					Toronto	.357	38	70	9	25	3	1	0	7	3	6	0
25	Delgado, Carlos	L/R	6-3/230	31	Toronto	.302	161	570	117	172	38	1	42	145	109	137	0
	Gomez, Chris	R/R	6-1/185	32	Minnesota	.251	58	175	14	44	9	3	1	15	7	13	2
11	Hinske, Eric	L/R	6-2/225	26	Syracuse	.500	2	8	2	4	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
					Toronto	.243	124	449	74	109	45	3	12	63	59	104	12
3	Hudson, Orlando	B/R	6-0/185	26	Toronto	.268	142	474	54	127	21	6	9	57	39	87	5
17	Phelps, Josh	R/R	6-3/225	25	Syracuse	.455	4	11	2	5	0	0	2	4	1	3	0
					Toronto	.268	119	396	57	106	18	1	20	66	39	115	1
	Pond, Simon	L/R	6-1/205	27	New Haven	.338	61	228	44	77	17	1	7	49	39	33	1
					Syracuse	.306	63	248	33	76	21	1	5	36	16	42	1
	Sequea, Jorge	R/R	5-10/160	23	New Haven	.342	33	111	17	38	7	0	2	13	11	21	0
					Syracuse	.255	73	271	43	69	15	4	3	31	30	45	7
5	Woodward, Chris	R/R	6-0/185	27	Toronto	.261	104	349	49	91	22	2	7	45	28	72	1

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
27	Catalanotto, Frank	L/R	5-11/195	29	Toronto	.299	133	489	83	146	34	6	13	59	35	62	2
	Griffin, John-Ford	L/L	6-2/215	24	New Haven	.279	104	373	48	104	23	3	13	75	49	85	2
	Gross, Gabe	L/R	6-3/210	24	New Haven	.319	84	310	52	99	23	3	7	51	52	53	3
					Syracuse	.264	53	182	22	48	16	2	5	23	31	56	1
37	Johnson, Reed	R/R	5-10/180	27	Syracuse	.327	26	101	14	33	4	1	2	16	3	13	3
					Toronto	.294	114	412	79	121	21	2	10	52	20	67	5
15	Rios, Alexis	R/R	6-5/185	23	New Haven	.352	127	514	86	181	32	11	11	82	39	85	11
10	Wells, Vernon	R/R	6-1/225	25	Toronto	.317	161	678	118	215	49	5	33	117	42	80	4
13	Werth, Jayson	R/R	6-5/215	24	Dunedin	.371	18	62	10	23	5	0	4	18	3	14	1
					Toronto	.208	26	48	7	10	4	0	2	10	3	22	1
					Syracuse	.237	64	236	37	56	19	1	9	34	15	68	11

Spring Training Invitees: LHP Bruce Chen, RHP Jayson Durocher, OF Chad Hermansen, LHP Chi-Hung Chen.

SCOUTING THE N

5 to watch

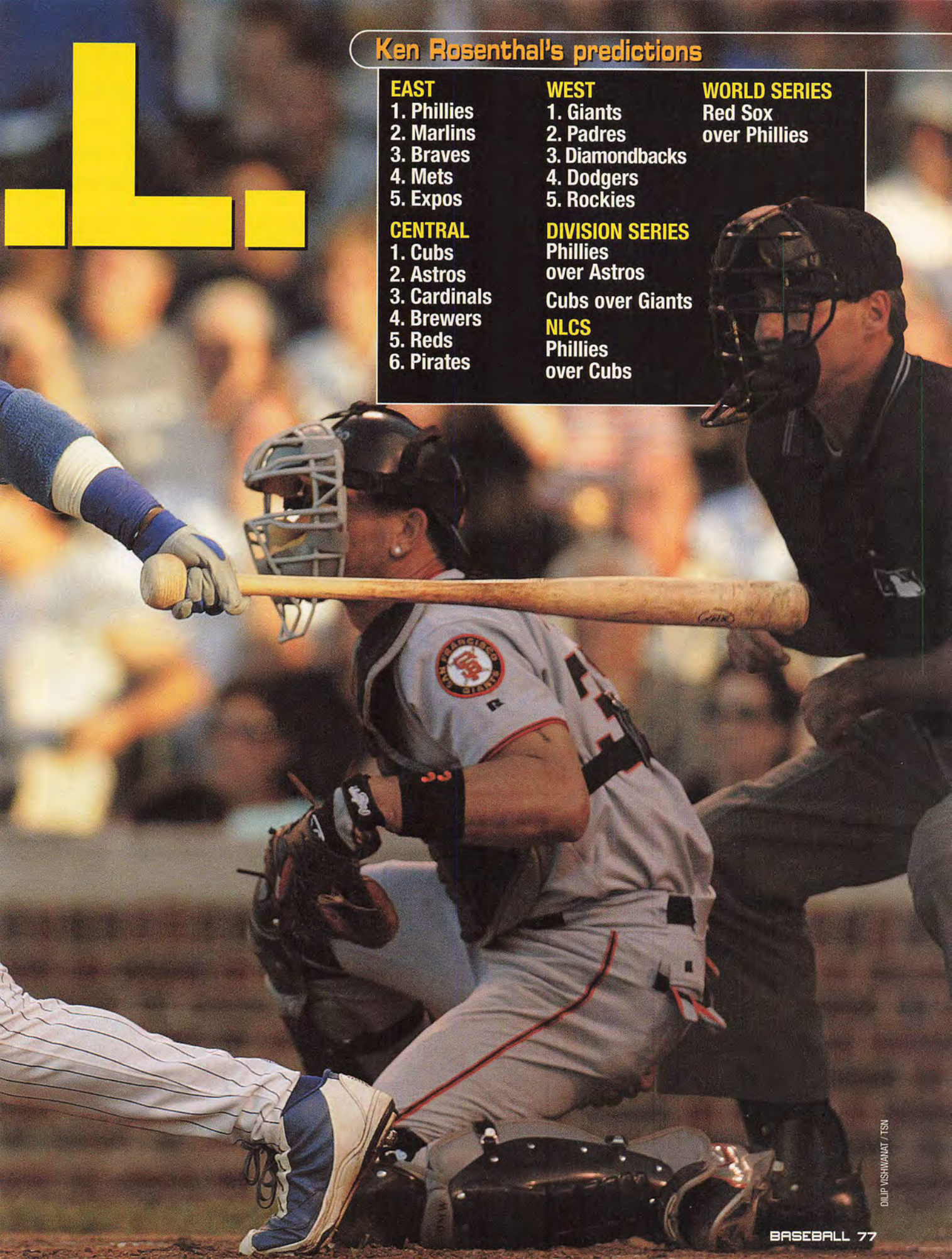
Team: Padres. Just in time for their move into a new ballpark, the Padres have put together their best roster since 1998—the year they reached the World Series and last had a winning season. The Padres also seem to be coming together at a time when two clubs that have owned the West in recent years, the Giants and Diamondbacks, are showing signs of faltering.

Player: Richie Sexson, Diamondbacks. He won't be asked to play every inning of every game like he did last year. All the weak-hitting Diamondbacks need him to do is blast 40-plus homers and drive in 120-plus runs the way he did in Milwaukee two of the past three years. Sexson has at least two advantages in Arizona: six additional games at Coors Field plus six games against his old club, the pitching-deficient Brewers.

Pitcher: Billy Wagner, Phillies. No pitcher in baseball touches 100 mph with his fastball as frequently as the Phillies' new closer. That is welcome news to manager Larry Bowa, whose team finished 15th in the N.L. in saves last season.

Manager: Tony La Russa, Cardinals. In his first seven years in St. Louis, the future Hall of Famer made the postseason four times. But to the disappointment of Cardinals fans who yearn for the good ol' days, he has yet to reach the World Series. The Cardinals enter the season with one of their weakest teams in La Russa's reign, but that doesn't mean the expectations will be any lower.

Statistic: The Marlins had two winning seasons in their first 10 years in the majors. Both, of course, ended in World Series championships.



Ken Rosenthal's predictions

EAST
1. Phillies
2. Marlins
3. Braves
4. Mets
5. Expos

CENTRAL
1. Cubs
2. Astros
3. Cardinals
4. Brewers
5. Reds
6. Pirates

WEST
1. Giants
2. Padres
3. Diamondbacks
4. Dodgers
5. Rockies

DIVISION SERIES
Phillies over Astros

Cubs over Giants

NLCS
Phillies over Cubs

WORLD SERIES
Red Sox over Phillies

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

PROJECTED N.L. WEST FINISH: 3RD

DIAMONDBACKS

By Steve Gilbert/MLB.com

The Diamondbacks are a team in transition. They dipped heavily into the free-agent market before the 1999 season as the beginning of a four-year plan that netted three division titles and a World Series crown. Now, after an injury-plagued 2003 season in which they fell to third place in the National League West, the Diamondbacks are trimming the payroll and getting younger as they attempt to reload.

Arizona signaled its intentions in November when it traded two-time 20-game winner Curt Schilling to the Red Sox for pitchers Casey Fossum, Brandon Lyon, Jorge De la Rosa and a player to be named.

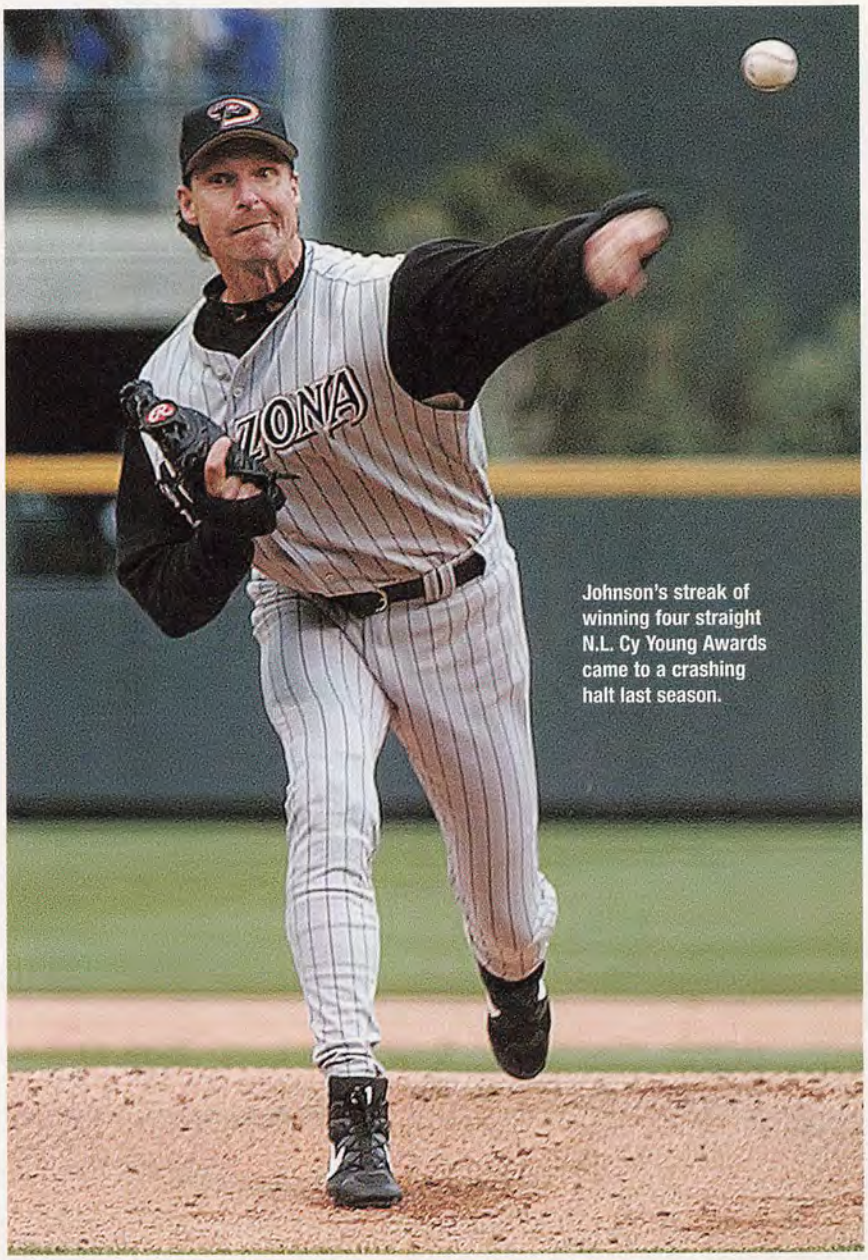
A few days after that deal, G.M. Joe Garagiola Jr. pulled the trigger on another trade, sending six players, including De la Rosa, to the Brewers for first baseman Richie Sexson, pitcher Shane Nance and another player to be named.

TSNUMBER

717

Runs scored in 2003, the 10th-best total in the N.L., after the team led the N.L. in '02. A spotty offense squandered too many good pitching efforts.

When the smoke had cleared, the new-look Diamondbacks were missing one of their best pitchers, but they had a much-needed power hitter, a strengthened bullpen and salary savings of close to $7 million. .



Johnson's streak of winning four straight N.L. Cy Young Awards came to a crashing halt last season.

CLIFF GRASSMICK FOR TSN

MANAGER Bob Brenly enters his fourth season and his first without Schilling. That means Brenly will have to choose from a host of youngsters to fill the rotation, bringing them along carefully.

One thing Brenly will have, however, is a consistent No. 4 hitter. Last season, the manager used 11 different cleanup hitters. In 2004, he simply will write Sexson's name in the fourth spot and let the rest of his lineup fall into place. Luis Gonzalez can return to the third slot, where he always has been more comfortable, and Brenly can stick Steve Finley (if he doesn't hit leadoff) or Shea Hillenbrand behind Sexson.

Brenly missed former bench coach Bob Melvin, who left before the 2003 season to manage Seattle. So, he will turn over that duty to Hall of Famer Robin Yount, who gives up his first base coaching job and returns to the dugout. **GRADE: B+**

ROTATION What once was the team's strength now is its biggest question with the dynamic duo no longer working in tandem.

With Schilling gone, Randy Johnson has to pick up the slack after an injury-plagued year that at times had him searching for answers. His right knee required arthroscopic surgery on May 1, forcing him to miss 12 weeks. Johnson struggled to find his old form after his return before finishing strong. Johnson's knee remains a concern. Essentially, the joint is bone on bone, and the lefthander took several injections of a lubricating fluid to try and lessen the discomfort.

Brandon Webb enjoyed an outstanding rookie season, finishing fourth in the N.L. in ERA (2.84) and 10th in strikeouts (172). He now steps into the No. 2 spot. His 10 wins were misleading because of woeful run support. But the win total weighed heavily with Rookie of the Year voters, who placed him third.

Last year was a disappointment for Elmer Dessens. Expected to be the No. 3 starter, Dessens instead struggled and finished the season as the club's No. 5 man. The righthander's performance fell dramatically

as games wore on, so he spent the offseason working seriously on his endurance.

The Nos. 4 and 5 spots will have a veteran influence. The Diamondbacks signed free-agent righthanders Shane Reynolds and Steve Sparks with an eye to the present as well as the future.

Reynolds, a former 19-game winner for Houston, was 11-9 last season for Atlanta. He appears to be fully recovered from back surgery he underwent in 2002.

Sparks, a knuckleballer, spent time last year with the Tigers and Athletics, making 51 appearances in relief. He will be a fifth starter and swing man, and both Reynolds and Sparks will be asked to provide guidance for the team's young pitchers.

Among those coming attractions are Edgar Gonzalez, John Patterson and Andrew Good. It also is possible talented lefthander Stephen Randolph will make a 2003 appearance. **GRADE: C**

BULLPEN The trades with the Red Sox and Brewers helped strengthen this unit.

Lyon could be a setup man along with fellow righthander Jose Valverde, while either Fossum or Nance could fill the lefthanded specialist role. Last season's two top bullpen lefties, Mike Myers and Eddie Oropesa, have left the organization.

One of the most reliable relief men is righthander Oscar Villarreal, who set an N.L. rookie record last year by appearing in 86 games. Look for Villarreal to be a major factor again.

Valverde was brilliant in the closer role when Matt Mantei was injured. Called up on June 1, Valverde converted his first nine save opportunities. A hard thrower with a sharp slider, Valverde struck out 71 batters in 50⅓ innings, while walking only 26.

Mantei, however, figures to regain the closer job. The righthander saved 29 games last season and seemed to be fully recovered from his 2001 elbow surgery. Mantei, in fact, has become a more complete hurler after learning how to pitch without his best stuff. While he still relies mainly on his fastball, he has developed a knee-buckling curve that he can throw for called third strikes.

Mantei pitched last season with pain in his shoulder, but doctors told him the injury would not require surgery. He spent the offseason strengthening the muscles in the shoulder to compensate for the discomfort.

Mike Koplove should return after missing much of 2003 with a sore shoulder that required arthroscopic surgery, and 24-year veteran Jesse Orosco was signed as a situational lefthander. **GRADE: B**

CATCHING The Diamondbacks never have had a front-line catcher. Damian Miller was productive in 2001 and the first half of 2002, but he never was a player that struck fear in opponents. Catching, Arizona style, always has been handled competently by a committee approach.

Last year, Rod Barajas, Chad Moeller and Robby Hammock combined their talents. But the emergence of Hammock, who hit .282 with eight homers in 195 at-bats, made Moeller and Barajas the odd men out. Moeller was traded to Milwaukee and Barajas was not re-signed.

Entering spring training, Hammock is a front-runner for the starting job. He is slight of build—5-10, 187 pounds—so Brenly will have to be careful not to burn him out. That should mean plenty of opportunities for newcomer Brent Mayne, who adds a useful lefthanded bat and 14 years of major league experience. **GRADE: C-**

INFIELD No area has undergone as big of a facelift from opening day 2002. Craig Counsell, Junior Spivey, Mark Grace and Tony Womack all have left the organization.

The changes started last year, thanks to the emergence of Alex Cintron and Matt Kata and the early season acquisition of Hillenbrand. The arrival of Sexson and veteran second baseman Roberto Alomar completed the transformation.

Cintron started last season at Class AAA Tucson, where he hit .393 before being called up to fill in for the injured Counsell. Cintron made the most of his opportunity, becoming one of the club's most reliable hitters and defenders. The 25-year-old shortstop has good range and showed some power, hitting 13 homers in his 117 games, four shy of his total in six minor league seasons before 2003.

Arizona native Hillenbrand was acquired from the Red Sox on May 29 for Byung-Hyun Kim and spent the rest of the season bouncing between first and third base. It was not an ideal situation for the righthanded hitter, who will move exclusively to third with the acquisition of Sexson.

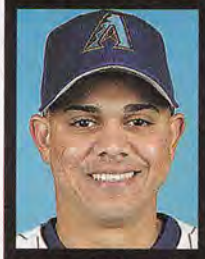
Sexson gives the Diamondbacks their first righthanded power threat since Matt Williams. Sexson should keep Gonzalez from pressing, something he seemed prone to do as the only real power hitter in the lineup last season. The 29-year-old Sexson is an underrated first baseman who should

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A big year for 1B **Richie Sexson**. The slugger has feasted throughout his career at Bank One Ballpark, hitting .378 with six homers and 16 RBIs in 45 at-bats.
2. The team's health. Last season, Diamondbacks players missed 646 games because of injury. The club will have to stay healthy if it hopes to contend in 2004.
3. How Arizona does vs. the Giants. Last year, the Diamondbacks were 5-14 against the N.L. West champions, including a 2-7 mark at Pacific Bell Park.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:



I know they are trying to get younger and I think they've got some good young players. The more I see Alex Cintron, the more I like him. I think they've got some good young arms. Brandon Webb keeps it very simple and if he stays right where he is, he should be a fine pitcher. I don't project him as a No. 1 guy, but he could be a No. 2 guy. ... I think Randy Johnson has got plenty left, but I think he's going to have to sacrifice some innings at the end of games to reduce his workload a little. ... That kid (Jose) Valverde has got a plus arm and he's got a good breaking ball to go with his fastball. He reminds me a little of Antonio Alfonseca when he was younger. ... Richie Sexson can change some stuff around in their lineup. He is a legitimate middle-of-the-lineup hitter for any team. From what I've heard, he's a very good competitor and he'll be coming to a place where they have a chance to win.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Roberto Alomar, 2B	**4**
Knows how to lead off; can he do it effectively?	
2. Alex Cintron, SS	**6**
Club needs him to avoid sophomore slump.	
3. Luis Gonzalez, LF	**6**
Should benefit from Sexson's presence.	
4. Richie Sexson, 1B	**7**
In N.L. West, gets extra six games at Denver.	
5. Shea Hillenbrand, 3B	**5**
Should benefit from focusing on one position.	
6. Steve Finley, CF	**5**
Not prototypical leadoff man, but best option.	
7. Danny Bautista, RF	**4**
Club hopes hot finish is sign of things to come.	
8. Robby Hammock, C	**3**
Should get more time than Brent Mayne.	
Starters	
1. Randy Johnson, LH	**7**
Must carry rotation without Curt Schilling.	
2. Brandon Webb, RH	**6**
Club counting on strong encore to rookie year.	
3. Elmer Dessens, RH	**4**
Needs to improve stamina, step up production.	
4. Shane Reynolds, RH	**4**
A big pickup for bottom of the rotation.	
5. Steve Sparks, RH	**4**
Versatile knuckleballer adds depth.	
Closer	
Matt Mantei, RH	**6**
Possesses knee-buckling curve to go with heater.	
Total	**71**

Diamondbacks Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.263	.262
Runs	717	747
Hits	1467	1445
Home runs	152	169
Stolen bases	76	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	3.84	4.28
Complete games	7	6
Saves	42	41
Walks	526	549
Strikeouts	1291	1067
Errors	107	106

WINS AND LOSSES

84-78 (3rd in N.L. West), 45-36 at home, 39-42 on road, 16-16 vs. N.L. East, 23-16 vs. N.L. Central, 34-42 vs. N.L. West, 11-4 vs. A.L., 27-21 vs. LH starters, 57-57 vs. RH starters, 79-74 on grass, 5-4 on turf, 29-25 in daytime, 55-53 at night, 30-25 in one-run games, 8-8 in extra-inning games, 1-0-0 in doubleheaders.

Bob Brenly's record: 274-212, 3 seasons with Diamondbacks.

Postseason: 11-9, 2 seasons with Diamondbacks; 1 World Series championship (2001).

Team record past five years: 459-351 (.567, ranks 6th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: 2B Roberto Alomar (FA/White Sox), 1B Greg Colbrunn (trade/Mariners), LHP Casey Fossum (trade/Red Sox), RHP Brandon Lyon (trade/Red Sox), C Brent Mayne (FA/Royals), LHP Shane Nance (trade/Brewers), LHP Jesse Orosco (FA/Twins), RHP Shane Reynolds (FA/Braves), 1B Richie Sexson (trade/Brewers), RHP Steve Sparks (FA/Athletics).

Losses: C Rod Barajas (FA), RHP Miguel Batista (FA/Blue Jays), LHP Chris Capuano (trade/Brewers), IF Craig Counsell (trade/Brewers), LHP Jorge De la Rosa (trade/Brewers), 1B Mark Grace (retired), OF Quinton McCracken (trade/Mariners), C Chad Moeller (trade/Brewers), OF Raul Mondesi (FA), LHP Mike Myers (FA), 1B Lyle Overbay (trade/Brewers), RHP Curt Schilling (trade/Red Sox), 2B Junior Spivey (trade/Brewers).

MEDIA

Radio: KTAR-AM (620)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net Arizona
Website: azdiamondbacks.com

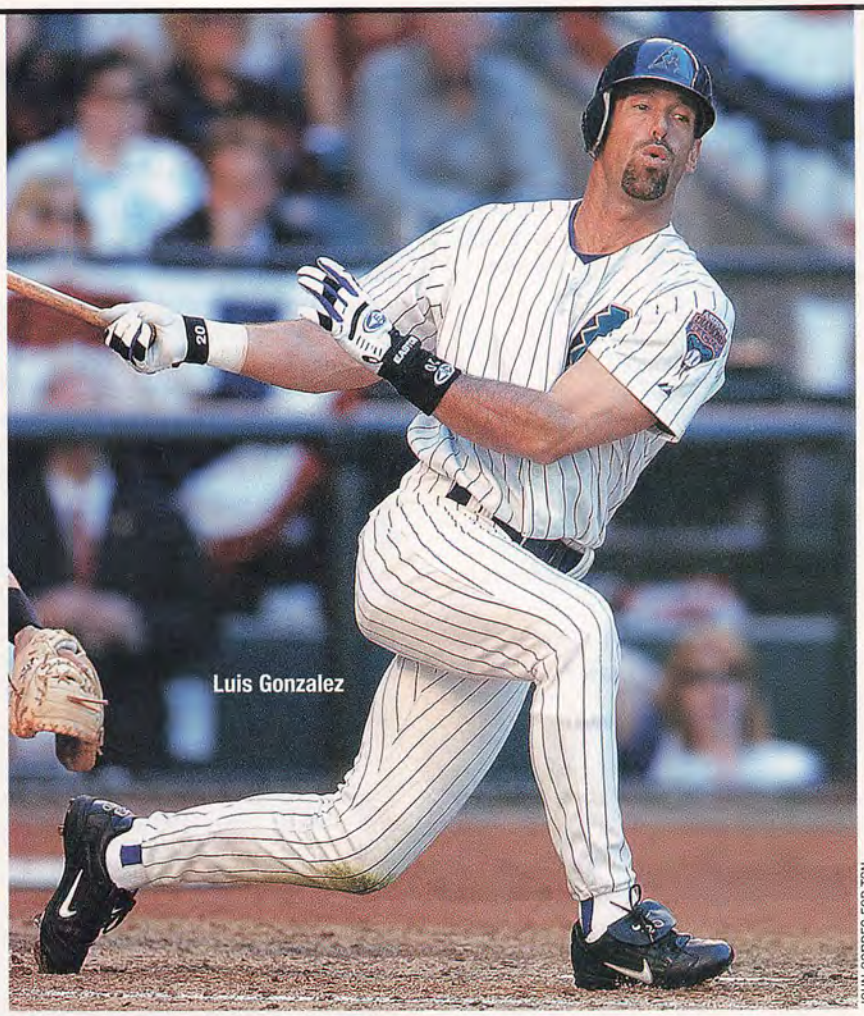
MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Tucson (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: El Paso (Texas)
Class A: Lancaster (California), South Bend (Midwest), Yakima (Northwest)
Rookie: Missoula (Pioneer)

Bank One Ballpark

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 49,033
Ticket information: 602-514-8400

Spring training: Tucson Electric Park (Tucson, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 520-434-1111 1-866-672-1343



JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

benefit from playing half of his games in Bank One Ballpark, where he has hit .378 in 45 career at-bats.

Alomar will bring his Gold Glove defense, productive bat and leadership to the lineup. Among other things, he will take the pressure off Kata, who was called up last June after Spivey went on the disabled list and emerged as one of the "Baby Backs" that helped Arizona rattle off 12 straight wins. After a hot start, however, the scrappy Kata slumped in the second half and heads into the new season as a key backup infielder who can provide sparks off the bench.

Scott Hairston also will battle for a roster spot. The 23-year-old has risen steadily through the system. He was outstanding in the Arizona Fall League, and the optimistic Diamondbacks thought he showed defensive improvement, which had been a shortcoming. Bench help also should come from veteran Greg Colbrunn, an outstanding pinch hitter, and Tim Olson, who can play second base, short and third. **GRADE: B+**

OUTFIELD Gonzalez worked hard to improve his throwing during the 2002 season. While the work paid dividends, it also may have contributed to an elbow problem that he battled the last two months of 2003. Gonzalez was diagnosed with a strain of the ulnar collateral ligament 10 days after the end of the season and spent the winter trying to strengthen the musculature around the ligament in hopes of avoiding surgery.

Defense, though, is not why Arizona signed the veteran left fielder to a three-year, $30 million extension. He was paid for his production at the plate. While he will have a hard time topping his 57-homer 2001 season, the 36-year-old lefthanded hitter remains productive. Gonzalez figures to get more pitches to hit with Sexson occupying the spot behind him.

Center fielder Steve Finley filled in nicely in the leadoff spot after Womack's departure and led the club in stolen bases with 15. An excellent defender, Finley still covers a lot of ground despite advancing age (39).

Right field was a sore spot last year and the team has few prospects in the minors. So unless a free agent is signed or a trade is made, look for the Diamondbacks to once again enter the spring with Danny Bautista as their starter.

On the bright side, the club believed Bautista began to regain his stroke last season down the stretch. **GRADE: B+**

Steve Gilbert covers the Diamondbacks for MLB.com.

Diamondbacks Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 COL	7 COL	8 COL	9 STL	10 STL
11 STL	12 COL	13	14 COL	15 COL	16 SD	17 SD
18 SD	19	20 MIL	21 MIL	22 MIL	23 SD	24 SD
25 SD	26 CHC	27 CHC	28 CHC	29	30 PHI	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 PHI
2 PHI	3	4 CHC	5 CHC	6 CHC	7 PHI	8 PHI
9 PHI	10 NYM	11 NYM	12 NYM	13 NYM	14 MON	15 MON
16 MON	17	18 ATL	19 ATL	20 ATL	21 FLA	22 FLA
23 FLA	24 FLA	25 SF	26 SF	27 SF	28 LA	29 LA
30 LA	31 SF					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 SF	2 SF	3 SF	4 LA	5 LA
6 LA	7	8 BAL	9 BAL	10 BAL	11 TOR	12 TOR
13 TOR	14	15 NYY	16 NYY	17 NYY	18 TB	19 TB
20 TB	21 SD	22 SD	23 SD	24	25 DET	26 DET
27 DET	28 SD	29 SD	30 SD			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 SD	2 MIN	3 MIN
4 MIN	5 LA	6 LA	7 LA	8 SF	9 SF	10 SF
11 SF	12	13 All-Star	14	15 LA	16 LA	17 LA
18 LA	19 SF	20 SF	21 HOU	22 HOU	23 COL	24 COL
25 COL	26 HOU	27 HOU	28 HOU	29 HOU	30 COL	31 COL

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 COL	2	3 FLA	4 FLA	5 FLA	6 ATL	7 ATL
8 ATL	9	10 MON	11 MON	12 MON	13 NYM	14 NYM
15 NYM	16 PIT	17 PIT	18 PIT	19	20 CIN	21 CIN
22 CIN	23 PIT	24 PIT	25 PIT	26	27 CIN	28 CIN
29 CIN	30	31 LA				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 LA	2 LA	3 SF	4 SF
5 SF	6	7 LA	8 LA	9 LA	10 SF	11 SF
12 SF	13 COL	14 COL	15 COL	16 COL	17 STL	18 STL
19 STL	20	21 COL	22 COL	23 COL	24 SD	25 SD
26 SD	27 MIL	28 MIL	29 MIL	30		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 SD	2 SD
3 SD	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Bob Brenly (15). Coaches: Mark Davis (13), Chuck Kiffin (51), Al Pedrique, Rick Schu, Glenn Sherlock (53), Robin Yount (19).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	Aquino, Greg	R/R	6-1/188	25	El Paso	7-3	3.46	20/20	0	106.2	115	43	41	38	91
	Bruney, Brian	R/R	6-3/226	22	Tucson	3-1	2.81	32/0	12	32.0	24	12	10	18	32
					El Paso	0-2	2.59	28/0	14	31.1	29	17	9	13	28
	Daigle, Casey	R/R	6-5/217	22	El Paso	11-11	4.59	29/27	0	176.1	219	108	90	51	115
45	Dessens, Elmer	R/R	5-10/198	33	Arizona	8-8	5.07	34/30	0	175.2	212	107	99	57	113
	Fossum, Casey	B/L	6-1/165	26	Portland	0-1	6.75	3/2	0	4.0	5	3	3	3	7
					Pawtucket	1-0	3.46	5/4	1	13.0	11	5	5	5	14
					Boston	6-5	5.47	19/14	1	79.0	82	55	48	34	63
49	Gonzalez, Edgar	R/R	6-0/215	21	El Paso	2-2	3.50	6/6	0	36.0	40	18	14	11	30
					Tucson	8-7	3.75	20/19	0	129.2	126	65	54	28	69
					Arizona	2-1	4.91	9/2	0	18.1	28	10	10	7	14
52	Good, Andrew	R/R	6-1/209	24	Arizona	4-2	5.29	16/10	0	66.1	74	42	39	16	42
					Tucson	4-4	5.00	11/11	0	63.0	78	36	35	13	45
	Gosling, Mike	L/L	6-2/210	23	Tucson	9-12	5.61	26/26	0	136.1	190	106	85	56	89
51	Johnson, Randy	R/L	6-10/231	40	Tucson	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	4.0	0	0	0	0	4
					El Paso	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	4.0	3	2	0	1	5
					Lancaster	0-1	6.00	1/1	0	6.0	11	5	4	0	6
					Arizona	6-8	4.26	18/18	0	114.0	125	61	54	27	125
58	Koplove, Mike	R/R	5-10/178	27	Arizona	3-0	2.15	31/0	0	37.2	31	11	9	10	27
					Tucson	0-1	13.50	3/0	1	2.2	4	4	4	3	2
	Lyon, Brandon	R/R	6-1/185	24	Pawtucket	0-0	3.24	5/0	0	8.1	7	3	3	2	7
					Boston	4-6	4.12	49/0	9	59.0	73	33	27	19	50
31	Mantei, Matt	R/R	6-1/198	30	Tucson	0-0	2.25	3/0	0	4.0	2	1	1	0	4
					Arizona	5-4	2.62	50/0	29	55.0	37	17	16	18	68
	Medders, Brandon	R/R	6-2/196	24	El Paso	5-3	4.41	56/0	7	69.1	65	37	34	26	72
	Nance, Shane	L/L	5-8/180	26	Indianapolis	2-4	1.38	35/1	3	52.1	34	10	8	13	53
					Milwaukee	0-2	4.81	26/0	0	24.1	34	16	13	10	25
24	Patterson, John	R/R	6-5/208	26	Tucson	10-5	2.63	18/18	0	109.1	100	48	32	43	74
					Arizona	1-4	6.05	16/8	1	55.0	61	39	37	30	43
34	Randolph, Steve	L/L	6-3/185	29	Tucson	1-0	3.86	7/0	0	9.1	8	5	4	3	6
					Arizona	8-1	4.05	50/0	0	60.0	50	28	27	43	50
	Reynolds, Shane	R/R	6-3/215	36	Atlanta	11-9	5.43	30/29	0	167.1	191	104	101	59	94
	Sparks, Steve	R/R	6-0/195	38	Detroit	0-6	4.72	42/0	2	89.2	95	57	47	34	49
					Oakland	0-0	5.71	9/0	0	17.1	19	11	11	3	5
	Stockman, Phil	R/R	6-6/200	24	El Paso	11-7	3.96	26/26	0	147.2	137	75	65	64	146
					Tucson	1-1	1.00	2/1	0	9.0	8	1	1	4	5
47	Valverde, Jose	R/R	6-4/254	24	Tucson	1-1	3.10	22/0	5	29.0	26	11	10	14	26
					Arizona	2-1	2.15	54/0	10	50.1	24	16	12	26	71
56	Villarreal, Oscar	L/R	6-0/177	22	Arizona	10-7	2.57	86/1	0	98.0	80	40	28	46	80
55	Webb, Brandon	R/R	6-2/228	24	Tucson	1-1	6.00	3/3	0	18.0	18	17	12	9	17
					Arizona	10-9	2.84	29/28	0	180.2	140	65	57	68	172

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
7	Hammock, Robby	R/R	5-11/180	26	Tucson	.267	33	116	14	31	6	2	2	17	11	24	1
					Arizona	.282	65	195	30	55	10	2	8	28	17	44	3
	Mayne, Brent	L/R	6-1/190	35	Kansas City	.245	113	372	39	91	17	1	6	36	32	59	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Alomar, Roberto	S/R	6-0/185	36	New York N.L.	.262	73	263	34	69	17	1	2	22	29	40	6
					Chicago A.L.	.253	67	253	42	64	11	1	3	17	30	37	6
3	Baerga, Carlos	B/R	5-11/215	35	Arizona	.343	105	207	31	71	13	0	4	39	18	20	1
10	Cintron, Alex	B/R	6-2/199	25	Tucson	.393	26	107	21	42	11	2	2	21	8	6	1
					Arizona	.317	117	448	70	142	26	6	13	51	29	33	2
	Colbrunn, Greg	R/R	6-0/215	34	Tacoma	.273	3	11	3	3	0	0	1	2	1	1	0
					Everett	.667	1	3	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
					Seattle	.276	22	58	7	16	1	1	3	7	4	16	0
	Gil, Jerry	R/R	6-3/183	21	South Bend	.259	116	429	52	111	16	6	4	58	10	90	19
	Hairston, Scott	R/R	6-0/188	23	El Paso	.276	88	337	53	93	21	7	10	47	30	80	6
					Tucson	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
28	Hillenbrand, Shea	R/R	6-1/211	28	Boston	.303	49	185	20	56	17	0	3	38	7	26	1
					Tucson	.300	3	10	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
					Arizona	.267	85	330	40	88	18	1	17	59	17	44	011
11	Kata, Matt	B/R	6-1/185	26	Tucson	.289	48	201	31	58	13	5	3	25	9	29	2
					Arizona	.257	78	288	42	74	16	5	7	29	25	53	3
66	Olson, Tim	R/R	6-2/200	25	El Paso	.196	14	56	5	11	2	0	2	8	5	19	0
					Tucson	.262	115	397	59	104	22	0	6	40	31	77	11
	Sexson, Richie	R/R	6-8/236	29	Milwaukee	.272	162	606	97	165	28	2	45	124	98	151	2
	Tracy, Chad	L/R	6-2/200	23	Tucson	.324	133	522	91	169	31	4	10	80	41	52	0

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
29	Bautista, Danny	R/R	5-11/225	31	El Paso	.143	2	7	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
					Tucson	.375	8	24	4	9	1	1	1	4	2	2	1
					Arizona	.275	88	284	29	78	16	3	4	36	21	50	3
12	Finley, Steve	L/L	6-2/194	39	Arizona	.287	147	516	82	148	24	10	22	70	57	94	15
20	Gonzalez, Luis	L/R	6-2/200	36	Arizona	.304	156	579	92	176	46	4	26	104	94	67	5
	Kroeger, Josh	L/L	6-2/200	21	Lancaster	.341	78	305	50	104	30	6	5	55	35	58	6
					El Paso	.274	54	208	26	57	9	2	3	22	10	54	3
27	Terrero, Luis	R/R	6-2/206	23	Arizona	.250	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
					Tucson	.287	118	467	83	134	20	15	3	46	31	103	23

Spring Training Invitees: LHP Jesse Orosco, RHP Brady Raggio, C Alan Zinter, OF Luis Garcia, OF Felix Jose, OF/IF Donnie Sadler.

ATLANTA

PROJECTED N.L. EAST FINISH: 3RD

BRAVES

By Mark Bowman/MLB.com

Gary Sheffield, Javy Lopez and Greg Maddux are gone. But do not make the mistake of thinking the cupboard is bare in Atlanta.

While working with a significantly reduced payroll, Braves general manager John Schuerholz still made enough key offseason moves to give credence to his belief that the team can claim an unprecedented 13th consecutive division title.

Schuerholz's boldest move was a five-player trade that sent top pitching prospect Jason Marquis to St. Louis and brought J.D. Drew to Atlanta to fill the right field vacancy created by Sheffield's departure.

When healthy, Drew is a legitimate offensive threat. But the fact that Schuerholz took on a health risk who might be in Atlanta just one year suggests a sense of urgency that has not been associated with Atlanta teams over the last decade.

TSNUMBER

4.10

The staff ERA in 2003, just the second above 4.00 since 1990. Without Gary Sheffield and Javy Lopez, there will be little room for error.

Even with the acquisition of Drew, this year's offense probably will not approach the jaw-dropping statistics last year's team posted. But with Drew, Chipper Jones and Andruw Jones in the middle of the order, few pitchers will look forward to facing this lineup.

The only certainty is that this year's cast of characters will be different than the ones Braves fans have come to appreciate in recent years. Three members of the lineup will be everyday players for the first time in their careers, and none of this year's rotation was even in Atlanta before 2003.

But because the Braves' roster still includes names like Mike Hampton, Russ Ortiz, the Jones boys and John Smoltz, it is easy to understand Schuerholz's optimism.

Chipper Jones will man the left side of a star-studded outfield that could give Braves fans 100-plus home runs in 2004.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

MANAGER Even while dealing with constantly changing rosters on an annual basis, Bobby Cox still succeeds.

Cox is appreciated by his players, who welcome the opportunity to play for a manager who treats them with respect. The longtime Braves skipper is not the kind of leader who berates and throws tantrums; he seldom expresses anything but praise for players when dealing with the media. And Cox provides a clubhouse atmosphere that affords newcomers the opportunity to immediately feel comfortable.

Whether or not this is the key to his success, it makes for a more relaxed atmosphere. And Cox has won as often and with as much consistency as almost any manager in history. **GRADE: A**

ROTATION Yes, Tom Glavine and Maddux are gone. But replacements Hampton and Ortiz are capable of pitching at a Cy Young level.

As his league-leading 102 walks would attest, Ortiz does not have the pinpoint control one might expect from a Braves ace. But he overcame that deficiency by winning a career-best 21 games last season. Cox and pitching coach Leo Mazzone are not about to mess with a guy who has won more games since the 2000 All-Star break than any other big-league pitcher. One knock against the strong righthander is his high pitch counts, which sometimes forces the bullpen into action too early.

With Hampton, the Braves have a talented lefthander who seemingly has relocated the outstanding sinker that allowed him to thrive early in his career. By the end of last season, he was looking more and more like the dominant pitcher New York Mets fans cheered in his pre-Colorado Rockies days.

Joining Ortiz and Hampton at the front of the rotation will be 24-year-old lefthander Horacio Ramirez and righthander John Thomson, a free-agent acquisition from Texas. Three lefties, Andy Pratt, Jung Keun Bong and C.J. Nitkowski, are among the minor leaguers who will compete for the fifth spot.

If Ramirez's sophomore season is anything like his rookie campaign, fans might be singing the praises of the best lefthander to come out of the Braves farm system since Glavine.

A rough midseason stretch and 13 no-decisions were all that separated Ramirez, who won 12 games as a rookie, from ranking among the league leaders in wins. This young hurler's maturity and talented arm make him a pitcher who could be successful for years.

Thomson's career numbers are not that impressive. But the 30-year old righthander has spent most of his big-league days working in the pitcher-unfriendly confines of Coors Field and The Ballpark in Arlington. Scouts believe this could be a breakout year for Thomson, who won a career-best 13 games for the Rangers in 2003. **GRADE: B+**

BULLPEN All indications are that Smoltz's surgically repaired right elbow will be healthy by the start of spring training. That's good news for the Braves and not-so-good news for opponents who have been dominated since the former Cy Young winner moved into the closer role near the end of the 2001 season.

His powerful fastball and paralyzing slider are his most effective pitches, but Smoltz's dominance is more a result of the impressive repertoire of six pitches that he can throw for strikes at any time in the count. Mazzone says Smoltz has recorded 100 saves over the past two years because he has maintained a starter's mentality that allows him to adapt when certain pitches are not working.

In order for the Braves to maximize Smoltz's value, they must hope righthanders Jaret Wright and Will Cunnane, two midseason waiver acquisitions last season, perform the way they did after they were added to the roster.

Joining the hard-throwing Wright and Cunnane in the setup role will be Kevin Gryboski, whose effective sinker gives him credence as the Braves' ground-ball specialist. Gryboski experienced arm problems near the end of last season but rebounded in time to pitch well in the postseason.

Veteran newcomers Antonio Alfonseca, a righthander, and lefthander Armando Almanza also will get good spring training looks. **GRADE: B-**

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A 20-win season for LHP **Mike Hampton**. With increased confidence in his sinker and a second season under **Leo Mazzone's** tutelage, Hampton once again will rank among the game's top pitchers.
2. At least 40 stolen bases for SS **Rafael Furcal**. After losing RF **Gary Sheffield** and C **Javy Lopez**, the Braves will use their speed to manufacture runs. Furcal was 25-of-27 in steal attempts last season.
3. A Rookie of the Year-type season by 1B **Adam LaRoche**. **Chipper Jones** says LaRoche has one of the best swings in the organization. LaRoche will provide a solid glove and hit about .300.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

This Braves team is going to look a lot different than the powerful one that we all saw last year. But as John Schuerholz has proven over the years, his organization always seems to be able to fill holes as well as anyone and continue to win. ... Losing Gary Sheffield and Javy Lopez is going to be a real big deal. I put Sheffield in the same scary category as Barry Bonds. ... I really wouldn't worry too much about losing Greg Maddux. He's getting older and just not giving the necessary innings. ... Braves fans should be happy with the decision to keep John Smoltz in the bullpen. He gives them the automatic factor that the Dodgers realize with Eric Gagne. ... The reason I think the Braves will continue to win is the fact that they are so strong up the middle. Andruw Jones is still the game's best outfielder and Rafael Furcal and Marcus Giles are as good as any double-play tandem I saw last year.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Rafael Furcal, SS	**6**
A speedster who needs to get on base more.	
2. Marcus Giles, 2B	**5**
All-around offensive performer with pop.	
3. Chipper Jones, LF	**7**
Will thrive in move back to third spot in order.	
4. Andruw Jones, CF	**7**
Plenty of power with little discipline.	
5. J.D. Drew, RF	**6**
Oft-injured performer with limitless potential.	
6. Mark DeRosa, 3B	**5**
Has consistent swing but lacks pop.	
7. Johnny Estrada, C	**5**
Showed he can hit for average; has little power.	
8. Adam LaRoche 1B	**4**
Some in organization rave about his swing.	
Starters	
1. Russ Ortiz, RH	**6**
Must find strike zone with more consistency.	
2. Mike Hampton, LH	**6**
Has potential to be 20-game winner again.	
3. Horacio Ramirez, LH	**5**
Mature beyond his years.	
4. John Thomson, RH	**4**
May become team's latest reclamation project.	
5. Jung Keun Bong, LH	**3**
Youngster has to prove quickly he belongs.	
Closer	
John Smoltz, RH	**8**
Wicked slider makes him nearly unhittable.	
Total	**77**

CATCHING While Johnny Estrada never will produce the eye-popping offensive numbers that Lopez did last year, he probably will be much better defensively. The last two staffs he has handled have led the International League in ERA.

Estrada's ability to switch hit, combined with his defensive success, should allow him to play regularly. But should he falter, the Braves have a familiar face waiting in the wings—Eddie Perez, who returns to Atlanta after spending 2002 with Cleveland and 2003 as Milwaukee's starting catcher.

The Braves got added insurance from the Drew trade in the form of Eli Marrero, a speedy, versatile performer who can provide backup behind the plate as well as first base and at any of the outfield positions. **GRADE: B**

INFIELD One opposing scout said he believed Rafael Furcal and Marcus Giles were the National League's finest double-play combination by the end of last season. But the two young All-Stars still have a way to go to reach their potential.

There is no denying Furcal's range and strong arm. But the 2000 N.L. Rookie of the Year must cut down on his 31 errors, the most among major league shortstops, before he can live up to Cox's praise as the game's top defensive shortstop.

Furcal's improving on-base percentage and decrease in strikeouts testify to his better plate discipline. With the team's substantial drop in power this season, the speedy shortstop, who was thrown out just twice in 27 steal attempts last season, will need to get on base often to help Cox generate runs.

Giles batted .316 and established himself as one of the game's top offensive threats in 2003. While his offensive production was a surprise, it was not nearly as shocking as the defensive consistency he displayed. Hours of work with former Braves second baseman Glenn Hubbard have enabled him to become a complete player.

Mark DeRosa, who has served as the Braves utility infielder the last two years, will

Braves Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.284	.262
Runs	907	747
Hits	1608	1445
Home runs	235	169
Stolen bases	68	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.10	4.28
Complete games	4	6
Saves	51	41
Walks	555	549
Strikeouts	992	1067
Errors	121	106

WINS AND LOSSES

101-61 (1st in N.L. East), 55-26 at home, 46-35 on road, 41-35 vs. N.L. East, 27-12 vs. N.L. Central, 23-9 vs. N.L. West, 10-5 vs. A.L., 25-13 vs. LH starters, 76-48 vs. RH starters, 88-52 on grass, 13-9 on turf, 34-13 in daytime, 67-48 at night, 17-25 in one-run games, 7-10 in extra-inning games, 1-0-1 in doubleheaders.

Bobby Cox's record: 1,551-1,173, 18 seasons with Braves; 1,906-1,465, 22 seasons (Blue Jays, Braves).

Postseason: 60-56, 12 seasons with Braves; 63-60, 13 seasons (Blue Jays, Braves); 1 World Series championship (1995).

Team record past five years: 488-320 (.604, ranks 1st in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Antonio Alfonseca (FA/Cubs), LHP Armando Almanza (FA/Marlins), OF J.D. Drew (trade/Cardinals), C/OF Eli Marrero (trade/Cardinals), OF Gary Matthews Jr. (waivers/Padres), C Eddie Perez (FA/Brewers), RHP John Thomson (FA/Rangers).

Losses: C Henry Blanco (FA/Twins), OF Darren Bragg (FA), 3B Vinny Castilla (FA/Rockies), 1B Robert Fick (FA), 1B/OF Matt Franco (FA), RHP Roberto Hernandez (FA/Phillies), RHP Darren Holmes (FA), LHP Ray King (trade/Cardinals), C Javy Lopez (FA/Orioles), RHP Greg Maddux (FA), RHP Jason Marquis (trade/Cardinals), LHP Kent Mercker (FA/Cubs), RHP Shane Reynolds (FA/Diamondbacks), OF Gary Sheffield (FA/Yankees).

MEDIA

Radio: WSB-AM (750)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net South, Turner South
Website: braves.mlb.com

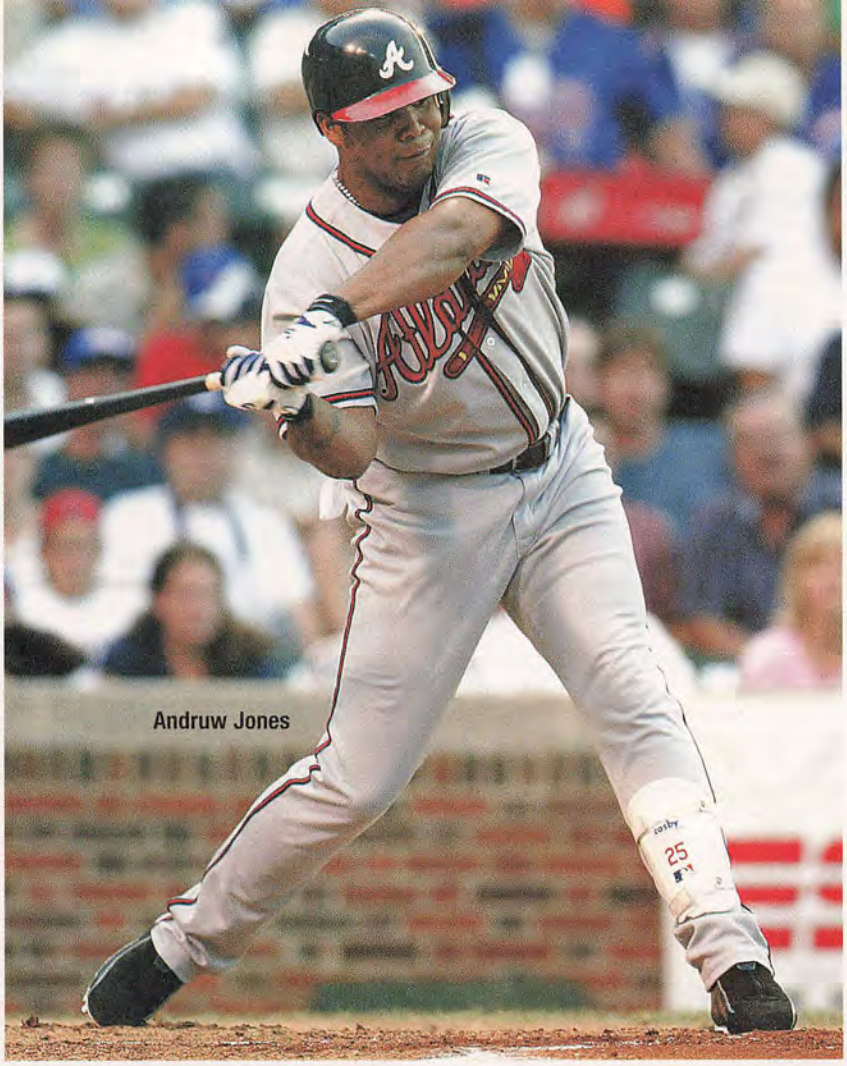
MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Richmond (International)
Class AA: Greenville (Southern)
Class A: Myrtle Beach (Carolina), Rome (South Atlantic)
Rookie: Danville (Appalachian), Gulf Coast Braves (Gulf Coast)

Turner Field

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 50,091
Ticket information: 404-249-6400, 800-326-4000

Spring training: Disney's Wide World Sports Baseball Stadium (Kissimmee, Fla.)
Ticket information: 407-839-3900, 407-939-4263



Andruw Jones

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

get his shot as a full-time third baseman. A major ankle injury cost him the everyday role he had earned in 2002.

DeRosa will not provide the same quality defense that Vinny Castilla supplied, but he has the ability to hit around .300 and the athleticism to make a quick transition into the everyday role.

Lefthanded-hitting Adam LaRoche hopes to become the team's long-term answer at first base. Scouts say the 24-year-old LaRoche, who could platoon with Marrero or Julio Franco, has a sweet swing and a consistent glove. **GRADE: B**

OUTFIELD Even with Sheffield out of the mix, the argument can be made that this year's outfield will be as good as the one Atlanta fans enjoyed the last two years. Drew has tremendous range and a strong arm that will be a welcome addition in right field.

Lefthanded pull hitters are going to have problems finding a hole on the right side of the outfield. With Drew and Andruw Jones, the Braves might possess the finest right-center defensive combo in the game. While Chipper Jones has not shown great range in left, he still has made steady improvement and is an adequate defender, especially with Andruw Jones covering his flank.

Offensively, there might not be a better trio. Last year, the switch-hitting Chipper Jones joined Willie Mays, Sammy Sosa and Mel Ott as the only National League players to reach the 100-RBI plateau in eight consecutive seasons.

Andruw Jones, who has won six consecutive Gold Gloves, has hit 30 or more homers in five of the last six seasons and seems to be hitting stride. However, the 26-year-old righthander's plate inconsistencies have prevented him from challenging .300 and legitimizing his spot among the game's elite. Hitting coach Terry Pendleton has worked diligently with Jones in hopes the promising superstar finally realizes his potential.

Drew still has potential to realize as well. Injuries have plagued the former first-round draft pick since his 1998 big-league debut with the Cardinals. But his right patella tendon was surgically repaired last winter, and he now thinks he is on the right path and that this unlucky rash of injuries is over. Cox believes Drew can bat .320, hit 35 homers and drive in more than 100 runs. If he does, Braves fans quickly will learn to live without Sheffield.

If Drew cannot stay healthy, look for Gary Matthews Jr. and Marrero to log a lot of outfield time. **GRADE: A-**

Mark Bowman covers the Braves for MLB.com.

Braves Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 NYM	7 NYM	8 NYM	9 CHC	10 CHC
11 CHC	12 NYM	13	14 NYM	15 NYM	16 FLA	17 FLA
18 FLA	19	20 CIN	21 CIN	22 CIN	23 FLA	24 FLA
25 FLA	26 SF	27 SF	28 SF	29	30 COL	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 COL
2 COL	3	4 SD	5 SD	6 SD	7 HOU	8 HOU
9 HOU	10	11 STL	12 STL	13 STL	14 MIL	15 MIL
16 MIL	17	18 ARI	19 ARI	20 ARI	21 LA	22 LA
23 LA	24 MON	25 MON	26 MON	27 PHI	28 PHI	29 PHI
30 PHI	31 MON					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 MON	2 MON	3 PHI	4 PHI	5 PHI
6 PHI	7	8 DET	9 DET	10 DET	11 CHW	12 CHW
13 CHW	14	15 KC	16 KC	17 KC	18 CLE	19 CLE
20 CLE	21	22 FLA	23 FLA	24 FLA	25 BAL	26 BAL
27 BAL	28 FLA	29 FLA	30 FLA			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 FLA	2 BOS	3 BOS
4 BOS	5 * MON	6 * MON	7 * MON	8	9 PHI	10 PHI
11 PHI	12	13 All-Star	14	15 MON	16 MON	17 MON
18 MON	19 PHI	20 PHI	21 PIT	22 PIT	23 NYM	24 NYM
25 NYM	26 PIT	27 PIT	28 PIT	29 PIT	30 NYM	31 NYM

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 NYM	2	3 HOU	4 HOU	5 HOU	6 ARI	7 ARI
8 ARI	9	10 MIL	11 MIL	12 MIL	13 STL	14 STL
15 STL	16 SD	17 SD	18 SD	19 LA	20 LA	21 LA
22 LA	23	24 COL	25 COL	26 COL	27 SF	28 SF
29 SF	30 SF	31 PHI				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 PHI	2	3 MON	4 MON
5 MON	6 PHI	7 PHI	8 PHI	9 PHI	10 MON	11 MON
12 MON	13 NYM	14 NYM	15 NYM	16 NYM	17 FLA	18 FLA
19 FLA	20	21 CIN	22 CIN	23 CIN	24 FLA	25 FLA
26 FLA	27 NYM	28 NYM	29 NYM	30		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 CHC	2 CHC
3 CHC	4	5	6	7	8	9

* San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Bobby Cox (6). Coaches: Pat Corrales (39), Bobby Dews (52), Fredi Gonzalez (33), Glenn Hubbard (17), Leo Mazzone (54), Otis Nixon, Terry Pendleton (9).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	Alfonseca, Antonio	R/R	6-5/250	31	Iowa	0-1	4.91	3/0	0	3.2	6	2	2	1	5
					Chicago N.L.	3-1	5.83	60/0	0	66.1	76	43	43	27	51
	Almanza, Armando	L/L	6-3/240	31	Florida	4-5	6.08	51/0	0	50.1	59	37	34	25	49
51	Bong, Jung	L/L	6-3/175	23	Richmond	1-2	5.56	3/3	0	11.1	11	7	7	3	15
					Atlanta	6-2	5.05	44/0	1	57.0	56	32	32	31	47
	Boyer, Blaine	R/R	6-3/190	22	Rome	12-8	3.69	30/26	0	136.2	146	70	56	58	115
36	Byrd, Paul	R/R	6-1/185	33				Did Not Play							
	Capellan, Jose	R/R	6-3/170	23	G.C. Braves	0-1	2.65	5/5	0	17.0	18	7	5	8	17
					Rome	1-2	3.80	14/12	0	47.1	43	23	20	19	32
	Colon, Roman	R/R	6-3/170	24	Greenville	11-3	3.36	39/12	2	107.0	104	48	40	33	58
26	Cunnane, Will	R/R	6-1/200	29	Iowa	0-1	2.20	12/0	0	16.1	17	5	4	8	16
					Richmond	1-0	0.00	15/0	2	21.0	11	2	0	2	19
					Atlanta	2-2	2.70	20/0	3	20.0	14	6	6	6	20
	Evert, Brett	L/L	6-6/200	23	Greenville	4-9	4.02	33/15	1	116.1	126	57	52	44	103
49	Gryboski, Kevin	R/R	6-5/235	30	Atlanta	6-4	3.86	64/0	0	44.1	44	22	19	23	32
32	Hampton, Mike	R/L	5-10/180	31	Atlanta	14-8	3.84	31/31	0	190.0	186	91	81	78	110
45	Hodges, Trey	R/R	6-3/187	25	Atlanta	3-3	4.66	52/1	0	65.2	69	38	34	31	66
	Nelson, Bubba	R/R	6-2/200	22	Greenville	8-10	3.18	23/20	0	119.0	106	47	42	45	77
					Richmond	0-1	1.88	11/0	0	14.1	10	3	3	5	7
48	Ortiz, Russ	R/R	6-1/208	29	Atlanta	21-7	3.81	34/34	0	212.1	177	101	90	102	149
26	Pratt, Andy	L/L	5-11/160	24	Richmond	7-10	3.40	28/27	0	156.0	146	77	59	77	161
	Ramirez, Horacio	L/L	6-1/170	24	Atlanta	12-4	4.00	29/29	0	182.1	181	91	81	72	100
29	Smoltz, John	R/R	6-3/220	36	Atlanta	0-2	1.12	62/0	45	64.1	48	9	8	8	73
	Thomson, John	R/R	6-3/190	30	Texas	13-14	4.85	35/35	0	217.0	234	125	117	49	136
27	Wright, Jaret	R/R	6-2/230	28	Portland	2-1	1.42	12/1	0	19.0	16	7	3	7	21
					San Diego	1-5	8.37	39/0	2	47.1	69	44	44	28	41
					Atlanta	1-0	2.00	11/0	0	9.0	7	2	2	3	9

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
23	Estrada, Johnny	B/R	5-11/209	27	Richmond	.328	106	354	40	116	29	0	10	66	30	30	0
					Atlanta	.306	16	36	2	11	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
	Perez, Eddie	R/R	6-1/220	35	Milwaukee	.271	107	350	26	95	17	1	11	45	17	47	0

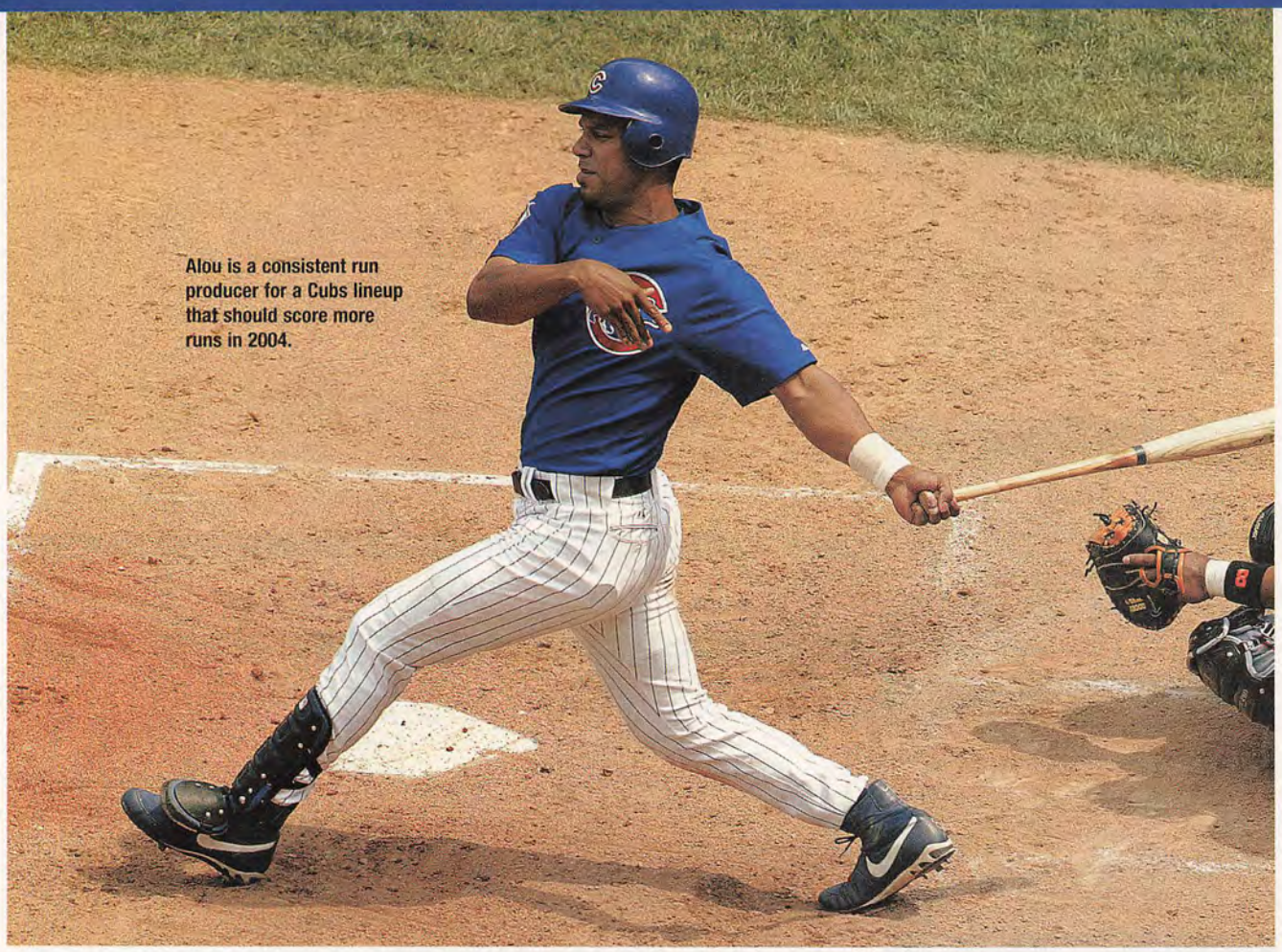
No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Betemit, Wilson	S/R	6-3/190	23	Richmond	.262	127	478	55	125	23	13	8	65	38	115	8
16	DeRosa, Mark	R/R	6-1/205	29	Atlanta	.263	103	266	40	70	14	0	6	22	16	49	1
1	Furcal, Rafael	B/R	5-10/165	26	Atlanta	.292	156	664	130	194	35	10	15	61	60	76	25
2	Garcia, Jesse	R/R	5-10/171	30	Richmond	.306	110	425	45	130	17	3	2	30	12	50	29
					Atlanta	.400	13	10	6	4	0	1	0	2	0	1	0
22	Giles, Marcus	R/R	5-8/180	25	Atlanta	.316	145	551	101	174	49	2	21	69	59	80	14
	Green, Nick	R/R	6-0/180	25	Richmond	.248	124	399	40	99	26	1	11	51	26	79	7
12	Hessman, Mike	R/R	6-5/215	26	Danville	.067	5	15	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	0
					Richmond	.248	96	359	47	89	15	3	16	52	24	87	3
					Atlanta	.286	19	21	2	6	2	0	2	3	5	6	0
	Johnson, Kelly	L/R	6-1/205	22	G.C. Braves	.385	6	26	10	10	1	1	1	3	3	4	1
					Greenville	.275	98	334	46	92	22	5	6	45	35	81	10
	LaRoche, Adam	L/L	6-3/180	24	Greenville	.283	61	219	42	62	12	1	12	37	34	53	1
					Richmond	.295	72	264	33	78	21	0	8	35	27	58	1
	Lewis, Richard	R/R	6-1/190	23	Greenville	.239	129	460	59	110	23	3	6	47	44	101	19
	Pena, Tony	R/R	6-1/160	23	Myrtle Beach	.259	120	405	43	105	14	1	4	30	24	82	17
	Thorman, Scott	L/R	6-3/205	22	Myrtle Beach	.243	124	445	44	108	26	2	12	56	42	79	0

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Drew, J.D.	L/R	6-1/200	28	Palm Beach	.368	8	19	4	7	0	0	1	3	7	4	0
					St. Louis	.289	100	287	60	83	13	3	15	42	36	48	2
25	Jones, Andruw	R/R	6-1/210	26	Atlanta	.277	156	595	101	165	28	2	36	116	53	125	4
10	Jones, Chipper	B/R	6-4/220	31	Atlanta	.305	153	555	103	169	33	2	27	106	94	83	2
	Joseph, Onil	R/R	6-1/150	22	Rome	.296	120	483	66	143	16	6	4	47	37	89	32
18	Langerhans, Ryan	L/L	6-3/195	24	Greenville	.253	94	336	42	85	23	2	6	38	46	85	10
					Richmond	.280	38	132	13	37	10	2	4	11	11	29	2
					Atlanta	.267	16	15	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
	Marrero, Eli	R/R	6-1/180	30	Memphis	.250	5	12	2	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
					St. Louis	.224	41	107	10	24	4	2	2	20	7	18	0
	Matthews, Gary	B/R	6-3/225	29	Baltimore	.204	41	162	21	33	12	1	2	20	9	29	0
					San Diego	.271	103	306	50	83	19	1	4	22	34	66	12

Spring Training Invitees: 1B Julio Franco.

CHICAGO CUBS

PROJECTED N.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 1ST



Alou is a consistent run producer for a Cubs lineup that should score more runs in 2004.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

By Carrie Muskat/MLB.com

It took an aggressive approach by general manager Jim Hendry to get the Cubs over the hump en route to their first National League Central Division title. He picked up Kenny Lofton, Randall Simon and Aramis Ramirez in midseason, and the Pittsburgh connection came through.

During the offseason, Hendry and the Cubs did not rest on their laurels.

The Cubs jumped at the chance to acquire first baseman Derrek Lee, sending young Hee Seop Choi and a minor league pitcher to Florida. Lee, who slugged 31 homers and drove in 91 runs for the Marlins, also arrives with his first Gold Glove—a complete package.

The addition of Lee creates a righthander-heavy lineup. Manager Dusty Baker must work Lee into the mix with Sammy Sosa, Moises Alou and Ramirez. The Cubs are counting on lefthanded-hitting Corey Patterson to return to good health and provide some variety, and lefthanded-hitting Todd Walker, another newcomer, offers an option at second base.

The bullpen was troublesome last season, and Hendry addressed that issue by grabbing free-agent reliever LaTroy Hawkins. The righthander, who spent nine seasons with the Twins, grew up in Gary, Ind., not that far from Wrigley Field.

Add Lee's pop and Hawkins' bullpen consistency to the stellar rotation of Kerry Wood, Mark Prior, Carlos Zambrano and Matt Clement, and the Cubs have a good chance at repeating as the division champs. The team now has four potential 90-RBI players on its roster.

It also has a manager who will refuse to accept anything less than a championship run. In his first Chicago season, Baker disavowed the Cubs' "lovable losers" label, dismissed the team's history of futility and scoffed at curses. His players responded.

Now can the Cubs take another big step in 2004? The pitching and defense are improved, Sosa should increase his production and some new offensive pieces are in place. The summer of 2004 could be fun.

TSNUMBER

0

Wins in 2003 when trailing after eight innings. The Cubs last rallied to win in that situation in September 2002. Bench help is needed.

MANAGER When Baker took over, he asked, "Why not us?" Under Baker, the Cubs improved by 21 games over the 2002 season, and were only five outs away from reaching the World Series. Considering Baker's goal was simply to improve, he was way ahead of schedule.

The Cubs have not posted back-to-back winning seasons since 1971-72. But Baker brings an energy and enthusiasm to Wrigley Field, as well as his trademark toothpicks. He lit scented candles in his office last season and played a range of music, from Bob Dylan to Run-DMC. He achieved the near

impossible when Sosa reported to spring training at the same time as the rest of the position players.

Baker's reputation for using the entire roster kept his players happy. He would like to see fewer strikeouts and less reliance on home runs, but knows that will require time. He let the starters go long, often just to give the youngsters a chance to learn how to get out of jams. But he may have left Prior in too long in the NLCS Game 6, a non-move that could haunt him.

It took Baker a while to get past losing in that seven-game NLCS to Florida, just as he had to deal with the pain of losing a seven-game World Series to Anaheim in 2002 when he managed the San Francisco Giants.

But Baker is strong enough to overcome such adversity. He was a rock for the Cubs in a controversy-filled 2003. And his second season should be even better. **GRADE: B+**

ROTATION What's not to like? Kerry Wood and Mark Prior are young, they throw hard and have drawn comparisons to Arizona's former dynamic duo of Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling.

The four horses—Wood, Prior, Zambrano and Clement—all totaled 200-plus innings and they average 25 years of age. All of them benefited from the postseason run, and now understand the importance of conditioning and stamina and the nuances of handling pressure.

Wood and Prior ranked 1-2 in major league strikeouts. Wood, 26, the first Cubs pitcher to lead the N.L. in strikeouts since Fergie Jenkins in 1969, matured in his fifth big-league season. He came through against the Yankees on June 7 when he outdueled Roger Clemens, and he beat the White Sox June 29 to salvage the intra-city series. He won Games 1 and 5 of the NLDS against Atlanta, but was 0-1 in two starts in the NLCS, including a loss in Game 7. He took that defeat hard, saying he "choked."

Wood had to leave a mid-August game with back problems, but he alleviated any concerns by going 3-1 with a 0.83 ERA over his last six starts. He was plagued by a season-long lack of run support. In his 11 losses, he allowed 45 earned runs and 59 hits over 63⅓ innings. In his other 21 starts, he had a 1.83 ERA—numbers that suggest the elbow surgery Wood had in 1999 is no longer an issue.

The fastest ever to reach 1,000 strikeouts in his career, Wood also was the first big leaguer to plunk 20 batters in a season since California's Tom Murphy in 1969. Wood is not afraid to throw inside—or face the consequences.

Prior continued to amaze and delight Cubs fans. Just 23, the righthander finished strong, going 10-1 with a 1.52 ERA in 11 starts after returning from the disabled list August 4. His smooth delivery and knee-buckling curve keep hitters off balance, and his poise surprises veterans. Prior has a plan when he takes the mound and sticks to it.

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A Cy Young season for RHP **Mark Prior**. The best thing about the Cubs making the postseason is that Prior realized he needed to step up his already intense conditioning.
2. Power from the corners. 1B **Derrek Lee** and 3B **Aramis Ramirez** should top 30 homers each with a full season at Wrigley. Lee will not miss those huge outfield gaps at Pro Player Stadium.
3. A less chaotic season for RF **Sammy Sosa**. A corked bat and a sore big toe created unnecessary distractions, yet he still hit 40 homers and drove in 103 runs.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

I like things about Aramis Ramirez—he has a cannon for an arm. I think if you can get him in a situation where he has to perform every day and it means something, he could do well. He got the big money early and he got kind of spoiled. He's 25 years old and I think he's only going to get better. ... Alex Gonzalez is Alex Gonzalez. What you see is what you get. ... With (Mark) Prior, (Carlos) Zambrano, (Kerry) Wood and (Matt) Clement, they're solid and I still like Juan Cruz. He has a devastating changeup. If he gets a couple wins early on, he'll be fine. ... What's not to like about Mark Prior? He's shown he's more consistent than Wood. ... (Joe) Borowski had a great year, but I don't know if he's the guy. Of course, he has proven people wrong all his life. (Mike) Remlinger, despite his inadequacies against lefthanders, is still efficient. ... I don't think they're going to get as many games out of Moises Alou as they did last year.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Mark Grudzielanek, 2B	**4**
Solid defensively; took a pay cut to stay.	
2. Alex Gonzalez, SS	**5**
Needs to reduce strikeouts to make this work.	
3. Sammy Sosa, RF	**7**
Aiming for seventh straight 40-homer season.	
4. Moises Alou, LF	**6**
Rebounded from bad year but must stay healthy.	
5. Derrek Lee, 1B	**7**
Should benefit from a smaller home venue.	
6. Aramis Ramirez, 3B	**6**
Talented player if motivated.	
7. Corey Patterson, CF	**6**
Coming back from major knee surgery.	
8. Michael Barrett, C	**5**
Team expects more offense from this position.	
Starters	
1. Kerry Wood, RH	**8**
Major league strikeout leader grew up in '03.	
2. Mark Prior, RH	**8**
Seems to get better in every start.	
3. Matt Clement, RH	**6**
Steady influence on the young staff.	
4. Carlos Zambrano, RH	**6**
Gained confidence with his solid second half.	
5. Juan Cruz, RH	**4**
Needs to get off to a good start.	
Closer	
Joe Borowski, RH	**6**
Not flashy or intimidating, but gets the job done.	
Total	**84**

Zambrano, 22, also matured in his first full season as a starter. Forget the first half (6-8, 3.58 ERA). In 13 starts after the break, he was 7-3 with three complete games and a 2.51 ERA. Zambrano gained more confidence each start, and his slider became more baffling to hitters. Baker encouraged the youngster to be himself during the playoffs and not worry about hiding his emotions. That message will be repeated this year.

Clement, 29, struggled with a groin injury but still set a career high in wins (14) and topped 200 innings for the second straight year. The veteran of the group, he still has stretches when he is not sure where his pitches are going.

The only downside is they are all righthanded. Baker would love to have a lefty in the mix for a different look. Candidates for the fifth spot include Juan Cruz and Sergio Mitre, two more righthanders. **GRADE: A**

BULLPEN When the team signed Hawkins in early December, Baker made a point of calling closer Joe Borowski. The Cubs manager did not want him to think Hawkins was taking his job. Borowski's response? He shrugged and said he will do whatever Baker wants. Borowski, who spent the winter pitching in Mexico, is just happy to be with the team.

The 32-year-old righthander was a savior in 2003. He started the season with two career saves and added 33 more as the emergency closer. Will he keep his job with Hawkins in the mix? That's hard to say. Hawkins' contract does include incentives for games finished, but he seemed better suited for the setup role with the Twins.

The Cubs now have Hawkins, righthander Kyle Farnsworth and lefthander Mike Remlinger to set up Borowski. Free-agent lefthander Kent Mercker can work long or short as need arises. The Cubs' need for another long man could be filled by the farm system. Righthander Todd Wellemeyer, who was called up four times, knows the drill, as does lefthander Felix Sanchez.

Cubs Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.259	.262
Runs	724	747
Hits	1431	1445
Home runs	172	169
Stolen bases	73	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	3.83	4.28
Complete games	13	6
Saves	36	41
Walks	617	549
Strikeouts	1404	1067
Errors	106	106

WINS AND LOSSES

88-74 (1st in N.L. Central), 44-37 at home, 44-37 on road, 15-15 vs. N.L. East, 47-37 vs. N.L. Central, 17-13 vs. N.L. West, 9-9 vs. A.L., 18-20 vs. LH starters, 70-54 vs. RH starters, 85-67 on grass, 3-7 on turf, 51-41 in daytime, 37-33 at night, 27-17 in one-run games, 8-3 in extra-inning games, 1-0-1 in doubleheaders.

Dusty Baker's record: 88-74, 1 season with Cubs; 928-789, 11 seasons with Giants and Cubs.

Postseason: 6-6, 1 season with Cubs; 17-19, 4 seasons with Giants and Cubs.

Team record past five years: 375-435 (.463, ranks 21st in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: C Michael Barrett (trade/Athletics), RHP LaTroy Hawkins (FA/Twins), OF Todd Hollandsworth (FA/Marlins), 1B Derrek Lee (trade/Marlins), IF/OF Jose Macias (trade/Expos), LHP Kent Mercker (FA/Braves), 2B Todd Walker (FA/Red Sox), RHP Jamey Wright (FA/Royals).

Losses: RHP Antonio Alfonseca (FA/Braves), 1B Hee Seop Choi (trade/Marlins), LHP Shawn Estes (FA), OF Doug Glanville (FA), LHP Mark Guthrie (FA), 1B Eric Karros (FA), OF Kenny Lofton (FA/Yankees), C Damian Miller (trade/Athletics), IF Augie Ojeda (waivers/Twins), OF Troy O'Leary (FA), 1B Randall Simon (FA), RHP Dave Veres (FA), IF Tony Womack (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: WGN-AM (720)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net Chicago
Website: cubs.mlb.com

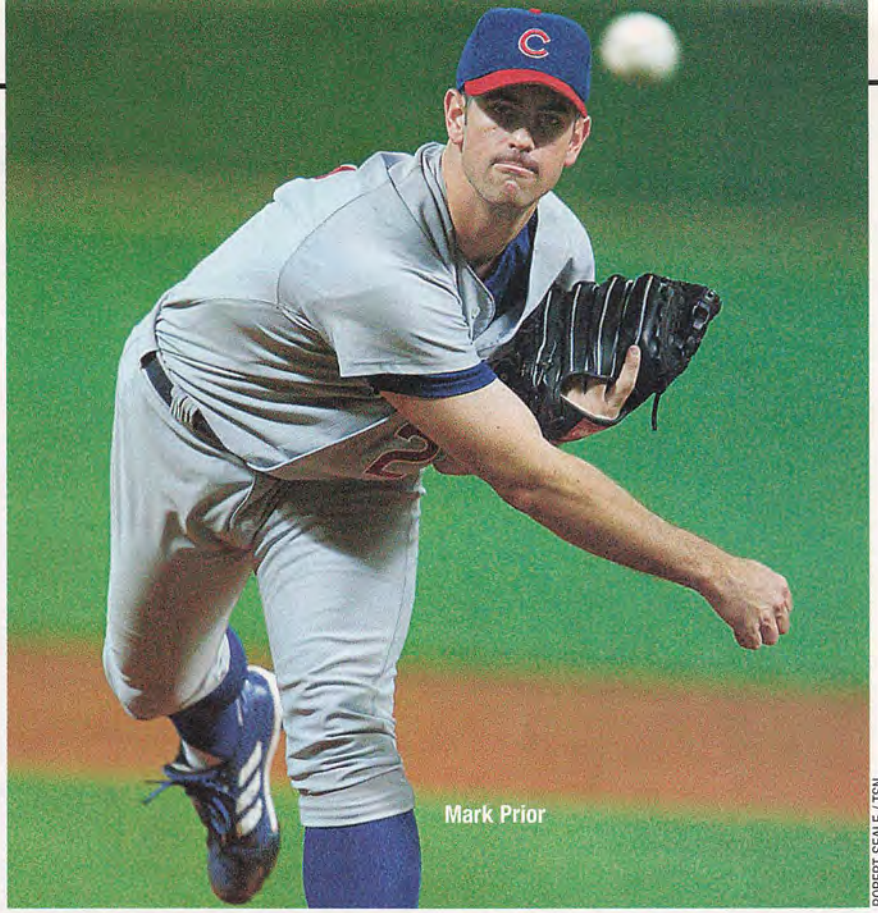
MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Iowa (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: West Tenn (Southern)
Class A: Boise (Northwest), Daytona (Florida State), Lansing (Midwest)
Rookie: Mesa Cubs (Arizona)

Wrigley Field

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 39,241
Ticket information: 773-404-2827

Spring training: HoHoKam Park (Mesa, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 800-638-4253


Mark Prior

ROBERT SCALE / TSN

Farnsworth bears the tag "closer of the future" but he needs to show he has the mental makeup to handle it. He does have closer stuff, starting with a 100-mph fastball. Remlinger had offseason shoulder surgery, which the Cubs hope will make him more durable. **GRADE: B**

CATCHING Damian Miller and Paul Bako batted a combined .231 last season. The Cubs had hoped for more. Both battled nagging injuries, which likely contributed to the lack of offense.

Miller is gone and in his place will be Michael Barrett, a solid defensive catcher who will add a power threat to the Cubs lineup. Barrett was a .263 hitter with 12 home runs in 2002 for Montreal before dipping to .208 in an injury-plagued 2003.

Cubs pitchers raved about the play-calling and defensive abilities of backup Bako. When he was behind the plate, Chicago pitchers posted a 3.80 ERA. **GRADE: C**

INFIELD The Cubs have not had a Gold Glove winner since Mark Grace in 1996. Derrek Lee could change that. Lee won his first with the Marlins, and he is bound to help the pitchers' comfort level. Lee also should help third baseman Ramirez, who can be erratic with his powerful arm. Lee boosts the infield's offensive firepower and could combine with Ramirez for 60 homers.

Mark Grudzielanek and Alex Gonzalez were a solid middle combo last season and will return. Look for them to get even better. Gonzalez needed a year to adjust to Wrigley's quirky infield and thick grass, and Grudzielanek was efficient and sharp, making only eight errors on 569 chances.

Grudzielanek might lead off again. And in a perfect world, Gonzalez will cut down on his strikeouts and fit into the No. 2 slot. If Baker wants to add some punch to his lineup, he can insert free-agent signee Todd Walker at second and move Grudzielanek to short. **GRADE: B**

OUTFIELD The trio of Sosa, Patterson and Alou will patrol the outfield. But do not expect Patterson or Alou to play 162 games.

Patterson is coming back from major surgery on his left knee. He was the team's first-half MVP, when he batted .298 with 13 home runs and 55 RBIs. Baker liked him in the lineup's third spot, subbing for Sosa when he was sidelined or hitting sixth.

The 37-year-old Alou rebounded from a disappointing 2002 but continued to battle nagging injuries, primarily problems with his legs. He did play 151 games, but the Cubs saw the need for a solid fourth outfielder and signed veteran Todd Hollandsworth, a much-needed lefthanded bat.

Sosa survived setbacks with his toe, his corked bat and several beanballs to post his sixth consecutive 40-homer season—and join baseball's elite 500-homer club. Rather than test the free-agent market, the popular Sosa decided to stay put and see if he can help take the Cubs to that next level.

Tom Goodwin, who batted .345 as a pinch hitter last season, returns as a speedy defensive option and late-inning pinch runner. **GRADE: B**

Carrie Muskat covers the Cubs for MLB.com.

Cubs Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 CIN	6	7 CIN	8 CIN	9 ATL	10 ATL
11 ATL	12 PIT	13	14 PIT	15 PIT	16 CIN	17 CIN
18 CIN	19 CIN	20 PIT	21 PIT	22 PIT	23 NYM	24 NYM
25 NYM	26 ARI	27 ARI	28 ARI	29	30 STL	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 STL
2 STL	3 STL	4 ARI	5 ARI	6 ARI	7 COL	8 COL
9 COL	10	11 LA	12 LA	13 LA	14 SD	15 SD
16 SD	17	18 SF	19 SF	20 SF	21 STL	22 STL
23 STL	24	25 HOU	26 HOU	27	28 PIT	29 PIT
30 PIT	31 HOU					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 HOU	2 HOU	3	4 PIT	5 PIT
6 PIT	7 STL	8 STL	9 STL	10 STL	11 ANA	12 ANA
13 ANA	14 HOU	15 HOU	16 HOU	17 HOU	18 OAK	19 OAK
20 OAK	21	22 STL	23 STL	24 STL	25 CHW	26 CHW
27 CHW	28	29 HOU	30 HOU			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 HOU	2 CHW	3 CHW
4 CHW	5 MIL	6 MIL	7 MIL	8	9 STL	10 STL
11 STL	12	13 All-Star	14	15 MIL	16 MIL	17 MIL
18 MIL	19 STL	20 STL	21 CIN	22 CIN	23 PHI	24 PHI
25 PHI	26 MIL	27 MIL	28 MIL	29 MIL	30 PHI	31 PHI

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 PHI	2	3 COL	4 COL	5 COL	6 SF	7 SF
8 SF	9	10 SD	11 SD	12 SD	13 LA	14 LA
15 LA	16	17 MIL	18 MIL	19 MIL	20 HOU	21 HOU
22 HOU	23 MIL	24 MIL	25 MIL	26 HOU	27 HOU	28 HOU
29 HOU	30 MON	31 MON				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 MON	2	3 FLA	4 FLA
5 FLA	6 MON	7 MON	8 MON	9	10 FLA	11 FLA
12 FLA	13 PIT	14 PIT	15 PIT	16 CIN	17 CIN	18 CIN
19 CIN	20	21 PIT	22 PIT	23 PIT	24 NYM	25 NYM
26 NYM	27 CIN	28 CIN	29 CIN	30 CIN		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 ATL	2 ATL
3 ATL	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Dusty Baker (12). Coaches: Gene Clines (2), Wendell Kim (3), Juan Lopez (59), Gary Matthews (36), Dick Pole (46), Larry Rothschild (47).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
53	Beltran, Francis	R/R	6-5/220	24	Iowa	6-2	2.96	31/2	4	48.2	46	17	16	19	33
48	Borowski, Joe	R/R	6-2/225	32	Chicago N.L.	2-2	2.63	68/0	33	68.1	53	23	20	19	66
30	Clement, Matt	R/R	6-3/210	29	Chicago N.L.	14-12	4.11	32/32	0	201.2	169	100	92	79	171
51	Cruz, Juan	R/R	6-2/165	25	Iowa	4-0	1.95	9/9	0	50.2	37	12	11	11	47
					Chicago N.L.	2-7	6.05	25/6	0	61.0	66	44	41	28	65
44	Farnsworth, Kyle	R/R	6-4/235	27	Chicago N.L.	3-2	3.30	77/0	0	76.1	53	31	28	36	92
	Guzman, Angel	R/R	6-3/190	22	West Tenn	3-3	2.81	15/15	0	89.2	83	30	28	26	87
					Burlington	1-1	3.00	17/0	1	30.0	26	11	10	17	36
	Hawkins, LaTroy	R/R	6-5/214	31	Minnesota	9-3	1.86	74/0	2	77.1	69	20	16	15	75
	Leicester, Jon	R/R	6-2/220	25	West Tenn	6-7	3.89	45/9	6	106.1	89	54	46	53	106
					Iowa	0-0	7.20	1/1	0	5.0	6	4	4	2	4
	Mercker, Kent	L/L	6-2/200	36	Cincinnati	0-2	2.35	49/0	0	38.1	31	13	10	25	41
					Atlanta	0-0	1.06	18/0	1	17.0	15	3	2	7	7
	Mitre, Sergio	R/R	6-4/210	23	West Tenn	7-9	3.34	25/24	0	145.2	162	75	54	41	128
					Chicago N.L.	0-1	8.31	3/2	0	8.2	15	8	8	4	3
	Pinto, Renyel	L/L	6-4/195	21	Daytona	3-8	3.22	20/19	0	114.2	91	47	41	45	104
22	Prior, Mark	R/R	6-5/230	23	Chicago N.L.	18-6	2.43	30/30	0	211.1	183	67	57	50	245
37	Remlinger, Mike	L/L	6-1/215	38	Chicago N.L.	6-5	3.65	73/0	0	69.0	54	30	28	39	83
	Sanchez, Felix	R/L	6-3/180	22	Arizona Cubs	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	2.0	2	0	0	0	3
					West Tenn	2-2	3.23	30/8	0	64.0	57	30	23	31	55
					Chicago N.L.	0-0	10.80	3/0	0	1.2	2	2	2	3	2
39	Smyth, Steve	L/L	6-1/195	25	Iowa	6-11	5.23	25/24	0	130.2	143	85	76	72	98
	Vasquez, Carlos	L/L	6-2/215	21	Lansing	10-13	3.74	24/23	0	137.1	136	74	57	47	87
	Webb, John	R/R	6-3/190	24	West Tenn	5-8	4.50	30/22	1	132.0	135	74	66	52	85
40	Wellemeyer, Todd	R/R	6-3/195	25	West Tenn	1-1	5.48	4/4	0	21.1	19	13	13	10	34
					Iowa	5-5	5.18	13/12	0	66.0	68	39	38	33	56
					Chicago N.L.	1-1	6.51	15/0	1	27.2	25	22	20	19	30
34	Wood, Kerry	R/R	6-5/225	26	Chicago N.L.	14-11	3.20	32/32	0	211.0	152	77	75	100	266
38	Zambrano, Carlos	B/R	6-5/245	22	Chicago N.L.	13-11	3.11	32/32	0	214.0	188	88	74	94	168

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
9	Bako, Paul	L/R	6-2/215	31	Chicago N.L.	.229	70	188	19	43	13	3	0	17	22	47	0
	Barrett, Michael	R/R	6-2/200	27	Edmonton	.333	2	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
					Montreal	.208	70	226	33	47	9	2	10	30	21	37	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Cedeno, Ronny	R/R	6-1/180	21	Daytona	.211	107	380	43	80	18	1	4	36	21	82	19
	Frese, Nate	R/R	6-3/205	26	Iowa	..243	99	309	37	75	14	2	6	32	38	64	0
8	Gonzalez, Alex S.	R/R	6-0/200	30	Chicago N.L.	.228	152	536	71	122	37	0	20	59	47	123	3
11	Grudzielanek, M.	R/R	6-1/190	33	Iowa	.500	2	10	1	5	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
					Chicago N.L.	.314	121	481	73	151	38	1	3	38	30	64	6
	Harris, Brendan	R/R	6-1/195	23	West Tenn	.280	120	435	56	122	34	7	5	52	51	72	6
	Lee, Derrek	R/R	6-5/248	28	Florida	.271	155	539	91	146	31	2	31	92	88	131	21
	Martinez, Ramon	R/R	6-1/195	31	Chicago N.L.	.283	108	293	30	83	16	1	3	34	24	50	0
16	Ramirez, Aramis	R/R	6-1/212	25	Pittsburgh	.280	96	375	44	105	25	1	12	67	25	68	1
					Chicago N.L.	.259	63	232	31	60	7	1	15	39	17	31	1
	Walker, Todd	L/R	6-0/190	30	Boston	.283	144	587	92	166	38	4	13	85	48	54	1

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
18	Alou, Moises	R/R	6-3/220	37	Chicago N.L.	.280	151	565	83	158	35	1	22	91	63	67	3
	Dubois, Jason	R/R	6-4/200	25	West Tenn	.269	130	443	57	119	31	4	15	73	57	118	2
24	Goodwin, Tom	L/R	6-0/185	35	Chicago N.L.	.287	87	171	26	49	10	0	1	12	11	33	19
	Hollandsworth, T.	L/L	6-2/225	30	Florida	.254	93	228	32	58	23	3	3	20	22	55	2
	Jackson, Nic	L/R	6-3/205	24	Iowa	.253	125	458	56	116	19	4	11	44	35	102	17
28	Kelton, David	R/R	6-3/205	24	Iowa	.269	121	442	62	119	24	3	16	67	46	115	8
					Chicago N.L.	.167	10	12	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	5	0
	Macias, Jose	B/R	5-8/190	32	Montreal	.239	111	272	31	65	15	2	4	22	11	45	4
20	Patterson, Corey	L/R	5-9/180	24	Chicago N.L.	.298	83	329	49	98	17	7	13	55	15	77	16
21	Sosa, Sammy	R/R	6-0/220	35	Chicago N.L.	.279	137	517	99	144	22	0	40	103	62	143	0

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Gary Glover, RHP Jamey Wright, INF Bill Selby.

CINCINNATI REDS

PROJECTED N.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 5TH

By Chris Haft/MLB.com

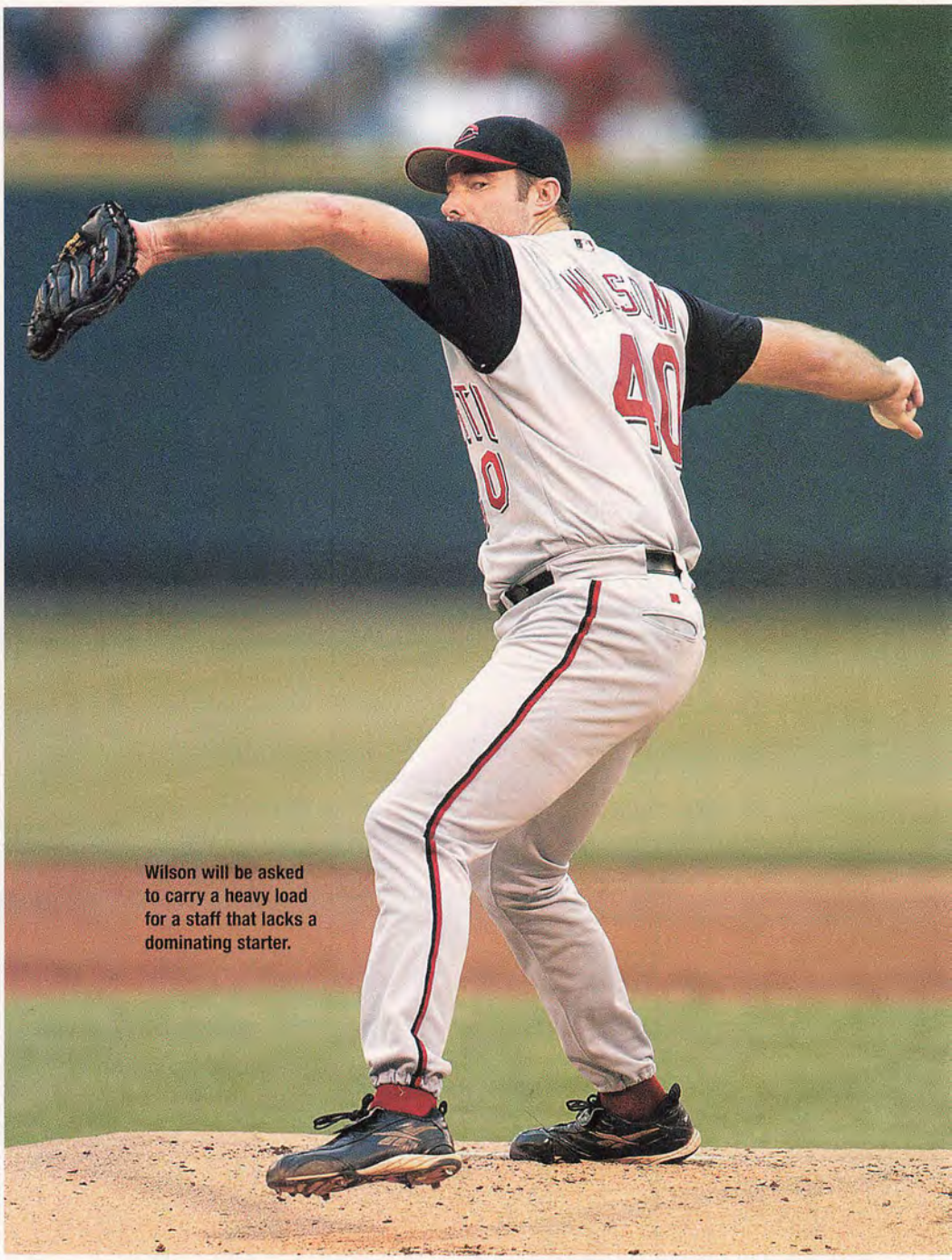
The 2003 season was supposed to be a memorable one for the Reds, who made their long-anticipated move into 42,256-seat Great American Ball Park. But it quickly turned forgettable.

Cincinnati stood just 2½ games out of first place in the National League Central on July 2 before an eight-game losing streak scuttled the season. General manager Jim Bowden and manager Bob Boone were fired on July 28. By the time the trading deadline expired three days later, three top performers had been moved—hard-throwing closer Scott Williamson, good-hitting outfielder Jose Guillen and popular third baseman Aaron Boone. More trades and several injuries followed, and the Reds finished the year without a single member of the season-opening pitching rotation left active and five position players from the opening day lineup on the disabled list.

TSNUMBER
50
Total games in which a starter lasted into the seventh inning, a reflection on a weak rotation. The Reds must avoid taxing their strong bullpen.

A healthy starting outfield of Adam Dunn, Ken Griffey Jr. and Austin Kearns automatically would improve the team. But the Reds' most glaring weakness remains their starting staff. Injuries and ineffectiveness forced Cincinnati to use 17 starters in 2003, and they combined for an N.L.-worst 5.77 ERA.

The Reds also must strengthen their grasp of baseball's subtleties. Their 141 errors led the major leagues a year ago, and their hitters set a club record for strikeouts for the third consecutive season.



Wilson will be asked to carry a heavy load for a staff that lacks a dominating starter.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

MANAGER The Reds' 22-35 record under Dave Miley, who finished 2003 as interim manager, was deceiving. His season-ending roster included 17 players who began the year in the minors or Mexican League. Nevertheless, Miley displayed his ability to motivate, leading the team to a 12-15 record against playoff contenders after August 12. His approach must have worked, because the players unanimously beseeched management to retain him.

Unlike Bob Boone, who tried to leave his imprint upon each game, Miley lets players play. He will leave in a starting pitcher to work out of a jam instead of reflexively summoning a reliever. When Miley does call the bullpen, he does so with a purpose. Relievers hate warming up and not entering the game; Miley rarely wastes his pitchers' energy in this manner.

Perhaps because he is accustomed to managing minor leaguers, Miley is patient with physical or mechanical errors and gen-

erous with praise. What is unknown, however, is how he can handle veterans. He barely dealt with stars such as Griffey and Barry Larkin or rising talents such as Kearns and Dunn. Though none of these players poses a disruptive threat, Miley must prove that he can connect with them just as easily as he can direct a 22-year-old rookie or a Class AAA vagabond. **GRADE: B**

ROTATION You will not find a No. 1 starter on the Reds' staff. In fact, even the best of Cincinnati's starting pitchers would be hard-pressed to win the No. 3 spot on most teams. It still, however, is easy to identify the rotation.

Righthander Paul Wilson should be solid, coming off a year in which he posted a 3.42 ERA at home (the team ERA at Great American Ball Park was 4.97) and averaged a career-best 2.7 walks per nine innings. He missed most of the season's final month with biceps tendinitis, an ominous sign for a pitcher with a history of arm problems. But the Reds believe shutting him down prevented further trouble.

Back spasms bothered Jimmy Haynes from the start of the season, preventing him from physically extending himself on his deliveries and contributing to a 2-12 mark. But after spending a month on the disabled list—and before his back worsened—he lowered his ERA in 10 consecutive starts, an indication he was regaining form. It would be a huge boost if he approached his 2002 performance, when he went 15-10.

Free-agent pickup Cory Lidle, who won 12 games for Toronto in 2003, relies on a sinker to produce ground-ball outs. He also works deep into games, an area the team tried to improve in the offseason.

Righthanders Jose Acevedo and Aaron Harang also could provide much-needed boosts. Acevedo displayed near-unprecedented command in a five-game cameo, walking six in 27 innings. And Harang is effective when he keeps his fastball low and uses other pitches to keep hitters off balance. Reds coaches also want him to keep his weight around his listed figure of 240.

Brandon Claussen, the lefthander obtained in the Aaron Boone trade, was shut down in mid-August out of concern for his recovery from elbow surgery in June 2002. But he has great promise. The Reds also will take a look at righthanders Dustin Moseley and Matt Belisle. **GRADE: D+**

BULLPEN After failing a conversion to a starting job, righthander Danny Graves is expected to return to the closer role he occupied from 1999-2002. Graves, who saved 121 games in that span, should slide comfortably into his old job, although the Reds may ease him in by initially using him as a setup reliever.

If that's the case, Chris Reitsma would handle the ninth-inning duties early in the season. Reitsma, who relies on a changeup, converted 12 of his last 14 save opportunities and looked increasingly competent as the season progressed. As a former starter, Reitsma still was adjusting to the burden of appearing in three and sometimes four games in a row. Miley might even consider dividing the closer role.

Ryan Wagner also is likely to establish a significant late-game presence. The 21-year-old righthander already appears to have the confidence and resilience necessary to handle being the bullpen ace, although at the outset he probably will set up Graves or Reitsma.

John Riedling deepens the setup corps, but he also likes to start. It wouldn't be a surprise, then, if the Reds try to stretch him out in spring training or early in the season. Joe Valentine, another pickup in the Guillen trade who excelled in the Arizona Fall League, has a strong chance to win a job.

On the left side, Phil Norton posted a 0.61 ERA in his final 16 appearances and stranded all 15 runners he inherited. **GRADE: B**

CATCHING A look at Jason LaRue's production from 2001-03 shows remarkable consistency, but last season he definitely benefited offensively from hitter-friendly Great American Ball Park. Of his career-high 16 homers, 12 came at home, and he surpassed his .227 career home average by batting .242. At the same time, his output was muted by injuries (upper back spasms, heel bruises, shoulder ailments).

LaRue has improved at handling pitchers and blocking balls in the dirt, but statistically, his throwing has suffered. He snuffed out 26 percent of potential basestealers last year, compared to 45 percent in 2002 and 60 percent the year before. But the decline can partly be traced to the vastly inexperienced staff LaRue had to guide.

Corky Miller, who has impressed the Reds in small doses of playing time each of the last three seasons, will be a capable backup and might even push LaRue for extended work. **GRADE: C**

INFIELD Trades and injuries have transformed this area from a source of stability to

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. An All-Star season from RF **Austin Kearns**. A savvy, fundamentally precise performer, Kearns should bounce back big time if fully recovered from the shoulder injury that derailed him last season.
2. The ascent of RHP **Ryan Wagner**. Assuming the 2003 first-round draft choice continues to dazzle hitters with his slider, he might go from setup duty to the closer role or the starting rotation.
3. An end to the **Ken Griffey Jr.** saga. If the injury-plagued center fielder does not come back strong in 2004, management might try to amend or get out of his contract, which runs through 2008.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

The starting pitching is a big hole. That's no surprise to anybody. I would think that Jose Acevedo has to get a look. ... I think they also have some unanswered questions at second base, shortstop and third base. They don't appear to have any kind of long-term solutions. ... The main question with D'Angelo Jimenez is, which guy are you going to get? ... They also should try to upgrade their catching. I'm not a big Jason LaRue fan, but I can live with him. His offense is probably better than some other catchers, but it's still lacking. ... The outfield has to be considered a strength if everybody's healthy—and that's a big proviso. You have to be excited about an outfield with Adam Dunn, Ken Griffey Jr. and Austin Kearns. ... I like Danny Graves as the closer, but what do you do with Chris Reitsma? I think he certainly needs to improve his third pitch—any pitch—to go with his fastball and changeup.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. D'Angelo Jimenez, 2B	**4**
Switch hitter is more productive from left side.	
2. Barry Larkin, SS	**3**
Still handles bat better than nearly all Reds.	
3. Ken Griffey Jr., CF	**6**
When healthy, he still can slug with the best.	
4. Austin Kearns, RF	**6**
Youngster doesn't mind pressure at cleanup.	
5. Sean Casey, 1B	**4**
Career .300 hitter who sprays ball to all fields.	
6. Adam Dunn, LF	**6**
Will rise in order if he figures it out at plate.	
7. Brandon Larson, 3B	**4**
Will have to prove quickly he can handle job.	
8. Jason LaRue, C	**3**
Improves some area of his game every year.	
Starters	
1. Paul Wilson, RH	**4**
Has learned subtleties of his craft.	
2. Jimmy Haynes, RH	**3**
Reds won't be patient with a terrible start.	
3. Cory Lidle, RH	**4**
Free-agent pickup fits nicely into rotation.	
4. Jose Acevedo, RH	**4**
Success came with breaking pitches for strikes.	
5. Aaron Harang, RH	**3**
A double-digit winner if he keeps the ball down.	
Closer	
Danny Graves, RH	**5**
Reds' hopes rise when his sinker plummets.	
Total	**59**

shambles.

Though management entered the offseason seeking an experienced alternative at third base, Brandon Larson was expected to receive another chance to claim the job. Handed the opening day job last year, Larson hit miserably (.083 in 15 games) and was demoted to Class AAA. Once Larson regained his stroke, he began to feel the effects of a torn labrum in his left shoulder, which ended his season prematurely.

At shortstop, Larkin, who will turn 40 in April and is entering his final season, likely will share time with Ray Olmedo and Juan Castro. Larkin compensates for diminished range with savvy, and he remains a threat at the plate, as his .325 average with runners in scoring position last year demonstrated.

Olmedo, a flashy fielder and spray-hitting switch hitter, must gain consistency and strength before he can make a serious bid to play regularly. Castro might play less if everybody's healthy, but he has proved his value as a slick-fielding utilityman.

Second base belongs to D'Angelo Jimenez—unless he moves to third, as has been rumored. Jimenez has little range but can hit; thus, the team will find a place for him in the lineup somewhere. Olmedo, Castro and hustling utilityman Ryan Freel also can play second.

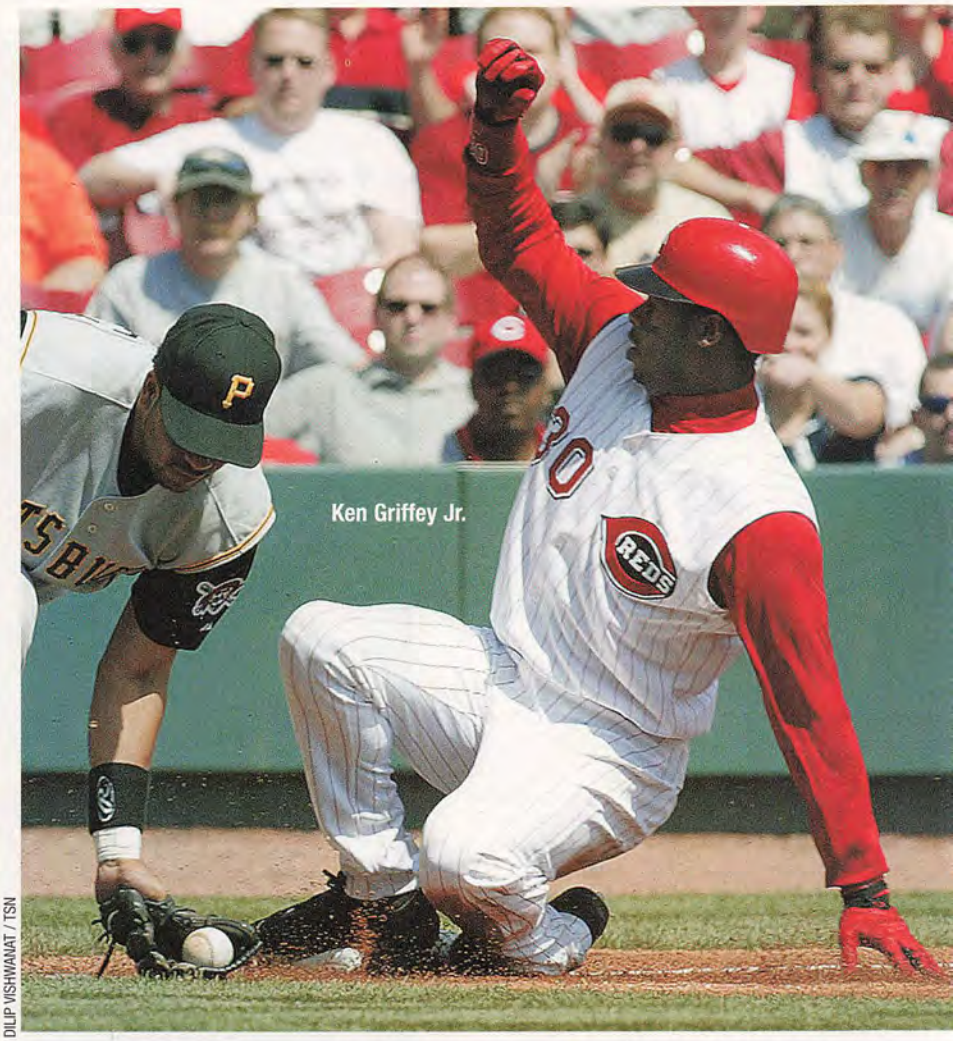
First baseman Sean Casey rebounded from a shoulder injury that required surgery in 2002, but his lack of power (14 homers in 573 at-bats) continued to mystify observers. It is worth noting that Casey played through a sore left groin in the final month and played much of the second half without anybody of consequence protecting him in the batting order. **GRADE: C-**

OUTFIELD This will be a pivotal season for center fielder Griffey, who has appeared in just 379 games in his four-year Reds career. He still is talented—he homered in five consecutive games shortly before an ankle injury shelved him on July 17—but if he again is sidelined for a prolonged period, the team will have to seriously evaluate whether he can help it in the future.

Kearns has run afoul of injuries in each of his first two seasons. When healthy, he is a treat to watch—fundamentally precise in every facet of the game and as confident as a 10-year veteran. He certainly is more steady than Dunn, who still is learning the game after dividing his athletic calendar between football and baseball for much of his life. The Reds maintain faith in Dunn, pointing to his youth (24) and prodigious ability that they insist will blossom with maturity.

Freel, who started 22 games in the outfield with last year's rash of injuries, could have value as a reserve who also can play the infield. Wily Mo Pena, a favorite of former G.M. Bowden, may have to realize his potential quickly if he is to stick with the organization. **GRADE: B**

Chris Haft covers the Reds for MLB.com.



Ken Griffey Jr.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Reds Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.245	.262
Runs	694	747
Hits	1349	1445
Home runs	182	169
Stolen bases	80	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	5.09	4.28
Complete games	4	6
Saves	38	41
Walks	590	549
Strikeouts	932	1067
Errors	141	106

WINS AND LOSSES

69-93 (5th in N.L. Central), 35-46 at home, 34-47 on road, 14-19 vs. N.L. East, 34-50 vs. N.L. Central, 14-19 vs. N.L. West, 7-5 vs. A.L., 16-29 vs. LH starters, 53-64 vs. RH starters, 63-90 on grass, 6-3 on turf, 22-33 in daytime, 47-60 at night, 30-21 in one-run games, 15-5 in extra-inning games, 0-0-0 in doubleheaders.
Dave Miley's record: 22-35 in one season with Reds.
Postseason: none.
Team record past five years: 394-417 (.486, ranks 18th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Cory Lidle (FA/Blue Jays).
Losses: LHP John Bale (FA/Japan), 3B Russell Branyan (FA), RHP Ryan Dempster (FA), RHP Seth Etherton (FA), RHP Joey Hamilton (FA/Padres), OF Ruben Mateo (FA), OF Reggie Taylor (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: WLW-AM (700)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net
Website: cincinnatireds.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Louisville (International)
Class AA: Chattanooga (Southern)
Class A: Dayton (Midwest), Potomac (South Atlantic)
Rookie: Billings (Pioneer), Gulf Coast Reds (Gulf Coast)

Great American Ball Park

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 42,271
Ticket information: 513-765-7400

Spring training: Ed Smith Stadium (Sarasota, Fla.)
Ticket information: 941-954-4101

Reds Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 CHC	6	7 CHC	8 CHC	9 PIT	10 PIT
11 PIT	12 PHI	13	14 PHI	15 PHI	16 CHC	17 CHC
18 CHC	19 CHC	20 ATL	21 ATL	22 ATL	23 PIT	24 PIT
25 PIT	26 PIT	27 MIL	28 MIL	29	30 HOU	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 HOU
2 HOU	3 HOU	4 MIL	5 MIL	6 MIL	7 SF	8 SF
9 SF	10	11 SD	12 SD	13 SD	14 LA	15 LA
16 LA	17	18 COL	19 COL	20 COL	21 HOU	22 HOU
23 HOU	24 HOU	25 FLA	26 FLA	27 FLA	28 MON	29 MON
30 MON	31 FLA					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 FLA	2 FLA	3	4 MON	5 MON
6 MON	7 OAK	8 OAK	9 OAK	10	11 CLE	12 CLE
13 CLE	14	15 TEX	16 TEX	17 TEX	18 STL	19 STL
20 STL	21	22 NYM	23 NYM	24 NYM	25 PIT	26 PIT
27 PIT	28	29 NYM	30 NYM			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 NYM	2 CLE	3 CLE
4 CLE	5 STL	6 STL	7 STL	8 MIL	9 MIL	10 MIL
11 MIL	12	13 All-Star	14	15 STL	16 STL	17 STL
18 STL	19 MIL	20 MIL	21 CHC	22 CHC	23 PIT	24 PIT
25 PIT	26 STL	27 STL	28 STL	29	30 HOU	31 HOU

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 HOU	2	3 SF	4 SF	5 SF	6 COL	7 COL
8 COL	9	10 LA	11 LA	12 LA	13 SD	14 SD
15 SD	16 STL	17 STL	18 STL	19	20 ARI	21 ARI
22 ARI	23	24 STL	25 STL	26 STL	27 ARI	28 ARI
29 ARI	30 HOU	31 HOU				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 HOU	2	3 MIL	4 MIL
5 MIL	6 HOU	7 HOU	8 HOU	9 MIL	10 MIL	11 MIL
12 MIL	13 PHI	14 PHI	15 PHI	16 CHC	17 CHC	18 CHC
19 CHC	20	21 ATL	22 ATL	23 ATL	24 PIT	25 PIT
26 PIT	27 CHC	28 CHC	29 CHC	30 CHC		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 PIT	2 PIT
3 PIT	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Dave Miley (12). Coaches: Mark Berry (59), Chris Chambliss, Don Gullett (35), Tom Hume (47), Jerry Narron, Randy Whisler.

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
29	Acevedo, Jose	R/R	6-0/185	26	Louisville	6-2	3.43	29/3	0	60.1	56	26	23	20	57
					Cincinnati	2-0	2.67	5/4	0	27.0	17	8	8	6	23
	Belisle, Matt	B/R	6-3/195	23	Greenville	6-8	3.52	21/21	0	125.1	128	59	49	42	94
					Richmond	1-1	2.25	3/3	0	20.0	17	6	5	0	10
					Louisville	1-3	3.81	4/4	0	26.0	31	15	11	5	15
					Cincinnati	1-1	5.19	6/0	0	8.2	10	5	5	2	6
	Cerros, Juan	R/R	6-1/200	27	Louisville	0-0	4.50	4/0	0	4.0	6	2	2	0	1
					Cincinnati	0-0	4.85	11/0	0	13.0	11	7	7	5	9
77	Claussen, Brandon	R/L	6-2/175	24	Tampa	2-0	1.64	4/4	0	22.0	16	5	4	3	26
					New York A.L.	1-0	1.42	1/1	0	6.1	8	2	1	1	5
					Columbus	2-1	2.75	11/11	0	68.2	53	28	21	18	39
					Louisville	0-1	7.47	3/3	0	15.2	17	13	13	6	16
	Dumatrait, Phil	R/L	6-2/170	22	Potomac	4-1	3.35	7/7	0	37.2	36	17	14	14	32
					Sarasota	7-5	3.02	21/20	1	104.1	74	41	35	59	74
32	Graves, Danny	R/R	6-0/185	30	Cincinnati	4-15	5.33	30/26	2	169.0	204	108	100	41	60
58	Hall, Josh	R/R	6-2/190	23	Chattanooga	8-10	3.47	26/25	0	153.0	152	73	59	53	114
					Cincinnati	0-2	6.57	6/5	0	24.2	33	22	18	15	18
39	Harang, Aaron	R/R	6-7/240	25	Oakland	1-3	5.34	7/6	0	30.1	41	19	18	9	16
					Sacramento	8-2	2.71	12/12	0	69.2	62	24	21	17	60
					Louisville	0-1	15.00	1/1	0	3.0	5	5	5	2	4
					Cincinnati	4-3	5.28	9/9	0	46.0	48	28	27	10	26
43	Haynes, Jimmy	R/R	6-4/219	31	Dayton	1-0	0.00	1/1	0	7.0	2	1	0	2	6
					Louisville	1-1	2.53	2/2	0	10.2	10	4	3	3	7
					Cincinnati	2-12	6.30	18/18	0	94.1	118	74	66	57	49
54	Hudson, Luke	R/R	6-3/195	26				Did Not Play							
	Lidle, Cory	R/R	5-11/192	32	Syracuse	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	4.0	5	0	0	0	3
					Toronto	12-15	5.75	31/31	0	192.2	216	133	123	60	112
	Mattox, David	R/R	6-2/195	23	Binghamton	8-7	3.49	21/20	0	113.1	103	50	44	40	86
51	Norton, Phil	R/L	6-1/190	28	Chicago N.L.	0-0	5.40	4/0	0	3.1	2	2	2	3	0
					Iowa	4-2	3.78	48/1	1	47.2	44	26	20	24	43
					Cincinnati	0-0	2.45	17/0	0	14.2	7	4	4	6	7
	Reith, Brian	R/R	6-5/220	26	Louisville	3-1	1.96	16/0	1	23.0	12	9	5	9	28
					Cincinnati	2-3	4.11	42/1	1	61.1	61	32	28	36	39
41	Reitsma, Chris	R/R	6-5/235	26	Louisville	1-2	4.00	4/4	0	18.0	22	10	8	5	11
					Cincinnati	9-5	4.29	57/3	12	84.0	92	41	40	19	53
46	Riedling, John	R/R	5-11/190	28	Cincinnati	2-3	4.90	55/8	1	101.0	107	61	55	47	65
48	Valentine, Joe	R/R	6-2/195	24	Sacramento	1-3	4.82	40/0	4	52.1	44	33	28	37	53
					Cincinnati	0-0	18.00	2/0	0	2.0	5	4	4	1	1
					Louisville	1-0	0.79	9/0	1	11.1	5	1	1	3	8
38	Wagner, Ryan	R/R	6-4/210	21	Chattanooga	1-0	0.00	5/0	0	5.0	2	1	0	2	6
					Louisville	0-1	4.50	4/0	0	4.0	5	2	2	0	4
					Cincinnati	2-0	1.66	17/0	0	21.2	13	4	4	12	25
40	Wilson, Paul	R/R	6-5/215	31	Cincinnati	8-10	4.64	28/28	0	166.2	190	97	86	50	93

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
23	LaRue, Jason	R/R	5-11/200	30	Cincinnati	.230	118	379	52	87	23	1	16	50	33	111	3
22	Miller, Corky	R/R	6-1/225	28	Louisville	.249	103	354	49	88	28	0	11	43	35	58	0
					Cincinnati	.267	14	30	4	8	0	0	0	1	5	7	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Bergolla, William	R/R	6-0/175	21	Potomac	.272	128	523	77	142	25	3	2	31	29	59	52
21	Casey, Sean	L/R	6-4/225	29	Cincinnati	.291	147	573	71	167	19	3	14	80	51	58	4
7	Castro, Juan	R/R	5-11/195	31	Louisville	.219	9	32	3	7	0	0	1	5	2	3	0
					Cincinnati	.253	113	320	28	81	14	1	9	33	18	58	2
	Encarnacion, Ed.	R/R	6-1/195	21	Potomac	.321	58	215	40	69	15	1	6	29	24	32	7
					Chattanooga	.272	67	254	40	69	13	1	5	36	22	44	8
	Hummel, Tim	R/R	6-2/195	25	Charlotte	.284	128	476	72	135	25	3	15	80	46	83	9
					Cincinnati	.226	26	84	9	19	5	0	2	10	8	13	0
3	Jimenez, D'Angelo	B/R	6-0/195	26	Chicago A.L.	.255	73	271	35	69	11	5	7	26	32	46	4
					Cincinnati	.290	73	290	34	84	13	2	7	31	34	43	7
11	Larkin, Barry	R/R	6-0/185	39	Cincinnati	.282	70	241	39	68	16	1	2	18	22	32	2
16	Larson, Brandon	R/R	6-0/210	27	Louisville	.323	72	282	51	91	19	2	20	74	28	70	3
					Cincinnati	.101	32	89	6	9	1	0	1	9	13	31	2
	Lopez, Felipe	B/R	6-0/185	23	Cincinnati	.213	59	197	28	42	7	2	2	13	28	59	8
					Louisville	.280	35	143	22	40	11	0	2	18	12	38	2
4	Olmedo, Ray	B/R	5-11/155	22	Chattanooga	.294	49	160	23	47	11	0	2	15	14	29	3
					Louisville	.240	9	25	4	6	1	0	1	4	2	6	0
					Cincinnati	.239	79	230	24	55	6	1	0	17	13	46	1

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
44	Dunn, Adam	L/R	6-6/240	24	Cincinnati	.215	116	381	70	82	12	1	27	57	74	126	8
6	Freel, Ryan	R/R	5-10/178	28	Louisville	.274	54	215	38	59	11	1	3	12	21	32	25
					Cincinnati	.285	43	137	23	39	6	1	4	12	9	13	9
30	Griffey Jr., Ken	L/L	6-3/205	34	Cincinnati	.247	53	166	34	41	12	1	13	26	27	44	1
28	Kearns, Austin	R/R	6-3/220	23	Cincinnati	.264	82	292	39	77	11	0	15	58	41	68	5
					Chattanooga	.200	3	5	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	0
26	Pena, Wily Mo	R/R	6-3/215	22	Louisville	.373	14	51	16	19	3	0	4	14	5	13	0
					Cincinnati	.218	80	165	20	36	6	1	5	16	12	53	3
37	Smitherman, S.	R/R	6-4/235	25	Louisville	.127	17	63	1	8	0	0	0	5	4	19	0
					Chattanooga	.310	105	365	60	113	21	2	19	73	54	95	11
					Cincinnati	.159	21	44	3	7	2	0	1	6	3	9	1

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Todd Van Poppel.

COLORADO ROCKIES

PROJECTED N.L. WEST FINISH: 5TH

ROCKIES

By Thomas Harding/MLB.com

The Rockies have faith in their future; it is the here and now that appears rocky. Ownership was pleased enough with the team's progress to extend the contracts of general manager Dan O'Dowd and manager Clint Hurdle through 2006, even though the Rockies have produced only one winning season in four years under O'Dowd and a 141-161 record in a little less than two seasons under Hurdle.

But before the Rockies see the future, they have to survive more payroll tightening.

The team finished 74-88 last season, a mere one-game improvement over the 73-89 records they posted in the two previous years, and a distant fourth in the N.L. West Division standings. And they still had to break up the team because of payroll concerns.

Outfielder Jay Payton, who had a career year, lefthander Darren Oliver, who led the team with 13 wins, and righthanded reliever Jose Jimenez, who owns the team's career saves record, all left because of payroll concerns. Ditto for third baseman Chris Stynes, who was solid in his first year as a full-time starter, and catcher Gregg Zaun.

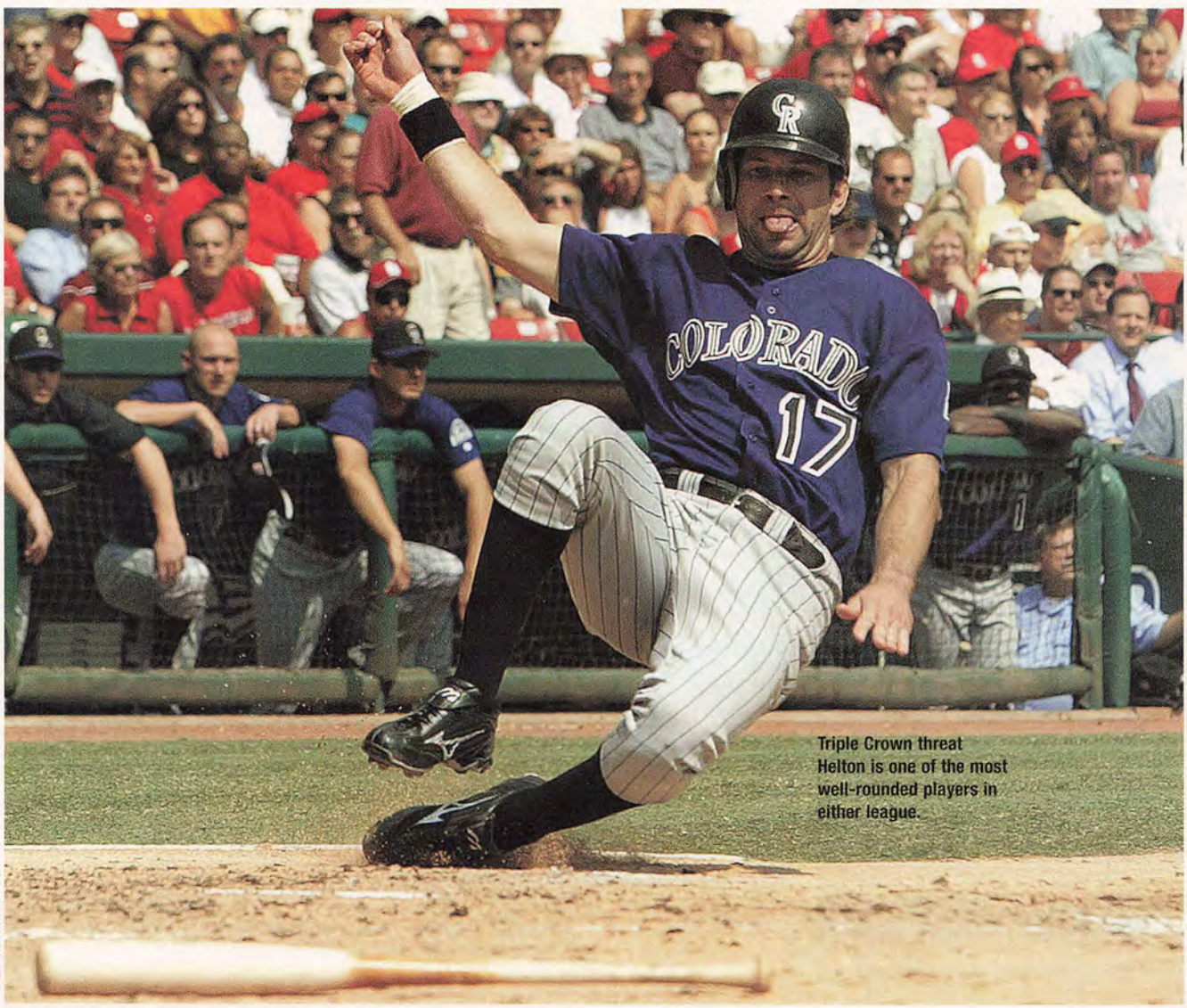
For the next two years, the payroll will be tied closely to the oversized salaries of first baseman Todd Helton, center fielder Preston Wilson, right fielder Larry Walker, catcher Charles Johnson and injured lefthanded pitcher Denny Neagle, who figures to miss most or all of 2004 because of elbow ligament-replacement surgery.

So Colorado must appreciate what it has—Helton and Wilson certainly performed to their paycheck levels last season—and make good decisions with the players surrounding them until it can build an economical club with home-grown players.

TSNUMBER

.309

Road winning percentage was worst in franchise history. The Rockies cannot be taken seriously until they improve away from home.



Triple Crown threat
Helton is one of the most well-rounded players in either league.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Ownership cited the progress of the farm system as a key reason for keeping O'Dowd and Hurdle in place.

MANAGER Hurdle, a big man with a booming voice and a presence that can fill a clubhouse, has put his stamp on the entire organization.

He has input in decisions by O'Dowd and ownership involving payroll. On bus rides to the hotel or the airport after games, it is common for Hurdle to dial up his minor league managers and discuss that night's game or the progress of players. He is involved with minor league managers and coaches to the point there is no question about what is expected of players when they get to the Rockies.

Fundamentals are important because they were the downfall of the 2003 team. Colorado went 27-40 in games decided by one or two runs and the ability to move a runner in key situations was woefully lacking. Making simple, fundamental plays defensively was touch-and-go and Hurdle railed that his players far too often failed to pick up signs. Late in the season, hurlers consistently made mistake pitches out over the plate against dangerous hitters in key situations.

Why such simple lessons were not grasped was a mystery to Hurdle. But he preaches accountability to his players and never hid from the fact that it is his job to get the team to execute.

Hurdle has a go-for-broke style—especially at Coors Field, where the frequency of his pitching changes can be startling. His moves are similar to the managing style others might use in the playoffs. Players like playing for Hurdle, but his style increases the need for starting pitchers who can go deeper into games on the road.

And playing away from Coors Field is always an issue for the Rockies. Hurdle must figure out how to get the team to produce more than the 25 road victories it posted last season. **GRADE: C**

ROTATION In 2002, Jason Jennings earned N.L. Rookie of the Year honors, Denny Stark won 11 games and Aaron Cook showed promise after a call-up from the minors. It was not a bad performance from a trio of young players. But in 2003, none of them took the next step forward.

Jennings, thrust into the No. 1 role, struggled, although he was still a respectable 12-13. Stark missed the early part of the season with a shoulder muscle problem and struggled with his mechanics after he returned. Cook's lack of fastball command earned him a demotion to Class AAA Colorado Springs and bullpen work when he was recalled.

Neagle's injury and Oliver's departure leave the team without that veteran who can absorb top matchups. And after Jennings, the rest of the rotation is a big question.

Stark pitched well in his final 2003 outing, a start at San Diego, and is optimistic that he and pitching coach Bob Apodaca have found the key to keeping his sinker from flattening out. Stark also must resolve his control problems.

Cook was outstanding last spring but looked like a 24-year-old rookie when the season started. He might have the best arm on the roster, but his command issues and the challenges of pitching at Coors could set back his development.

Other candidates are lefthander Joe Kennedy, who won only three of 15 decision for the Devil Rays last season; Taiwanese phenom Chin-hui Tsao, who showed both talent and inexperience when he jumped from Class AA to the big leagues late last year; Jason Young, a second-round 2000 draft pick who was hit hard and needs to work on fastball command and his breaking pitches; former Padres righthander Brian Tollberg, and lefty Cory Vance, a gritty competitor with a lot to learn. **GRADE: C-**

BULLPEN One of O'Dowd's biggest mistakes last season was paying $6.6 million to Jimenez and setup man Todd Jones, then watching both falter. Jones was released in June. Jimenez was let go at season's end.

Closer duties this season will go to Shawn Chacon, who will move from the rotation and use his above-average fastball, outstanding curve and improving slider in a role that might better help him overcome his problems with elbow tendinitis.

The team was impressed with Chacon's improved work ethic in 2003. He was 11-3 before elbow problems slowed him in late June and regained his fastball command while working with Apodaca. Chacon was shut down in August when the tendinitis persisted, but the rest seems to have done the trick.

Righthanded setup man Justin Speier, who replaced Jimenez as closer last season, was sent to Toronto in another cost-saving move. But veteran righthander Steve Reed, who stranded 39 of 47 inherited runners and holds club records for appearances and ERA, signed at a discount.

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A return to form for RF **Larry Walker**. An ill-advised, unsupervised offseason weight training program and injuries ruined 2003. Surgery and pride will drive Walker to rebound.
2. More struggles for runs. The Rockies posted the lowest batting average (.267) in their history, and another year of tight budgeting likely means too much will be expected from the middle of the order.
3. An emphasis on execution. The Rockies went 28-40 in games decided by two or fewer runs and closers blew eight saves in 41 chances. Shoddy offensive execution led to many of the losses.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

They've got a tough jigsaw puzzle to put together. They're OK in center and right, and at first base. They've got Charles Johnson. There are a lot of holes, and not a lot of money because of the big contracts for Todd Helton, Larry Walker, Preston Wilson and Johnson. ... When you depend on young pitching, inconsistency is inherent anywhere, but especially where they play. We'll see if Aaron Cook makes it. He took a step back and Shawn Chacon took a step forward, but stepped back at the end when he got hurt. They've got Jason Jennings. There's Denny Stark, and Chin-hui Tsao is going to be a factor. Add Jason Young, and what they have is a lot of young guys trying to break in. That gives them a lot of decisions to make. But I hear good things about pitching coach Bob Apodaca. Denny Neagle is out, and that hurts them because they need a veteran. Without one, their young pitchers take all the big matchups.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Aaron Miles, 2B	**4**
Strong minors numbers, little bigs experience.	
2. Clint Barmes, SS	**5**
Held his own with the bat in big-league trial.	
3. Todd Helton, 1B	**8**
Return of power makes him complete.	
4. Preston Wilson, CF	**7**
Displayed power to all corners of Coors Field.	
5. Larry Walker, RF	**7**
Wants to prove that he isn't done yet.	
6. Vinny Castilla, 3B	**5**
Still can clear fences at Coors Field.	
7. Jeromy Burnitz, LF	**6**
A power bat should post big numbers in Denver.	
8. Charles Johnson, C	**4**
Prone to slumps, but can show power at Coors.	
Starters	
1. Jason Jennings, RH	**5**
Needs power sinker to work on the road.	
2. Aaron Cook, RH	**4**
Great arm, but command issues are a concern.	
3. Denny Stark, RH	**4**
Electric stuff, but must cut down on walks.	
4. Joe Kennedy, LH	**3**
Former Devil Ray will get a good opportunity.	
5. Chin-hui Tsao, RH	**5**
Staff's best arm; must learn big-league game.	
Closer	
Shawn Chacon, RH	**5**
Has the stuff to excel—does he have the stamina?	
Total	**72**

Lefthander Brian Fuentes was enough of a strikeout threat (82 in 75⅓ innings) to earn some time in the closer role, but he was not efficient enough with his pitches to be considered a full-time guy. Fuentes surprisingly held righthanders to a lower batting average (.227) than lefties (.238) and will be used in important late-game situations.

Another revelation was lefthander Javier Lopez. He hit a rough patch in July and August, but otherwise was effective in going 4-1 with a 3.70 ERA. Lopez was especially tough on lefthanders.

The Rockies also were encouraged by Adam Bernero, a righthander who was acquired after a horrible trial as a starter for Detroit. Righthanders Scott Dohmann, a future closer, and Justin Huisman will begin the year in the minors, but could provide help by season's end. **GRADE: C**

Rockies Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.267	.262
Runs	853	747
Hits	1472	1445
Home runs	198	169
Stolen bases	63	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	5.20	4.28
Complete games	3	6
Saves	34	41
Walks	552	549
Strikeouts	866	1067
Errors	116	106

WINS AND LOSSES

74-88 (4th in N.L. West), 49-32 at home, 25-56 on road, 11-21 vs. N.L. East, 19-20 vs. N.L. Central, 35-41 vs. N.L. West, 9-6 vs. A.L., 20-26 vs. LH starters, 54-62 vs. RH starters, 72-81 on grass, 2-7 on turf, 27-29 in daytime, 47-59 at night, 17-22 in one-run games, 2-7 in extra-inning games, 0-1-0 in doubleheaders.
Clint Hurdle's record: 141-161, 2 seasons with Rockies.
Postseason: none.
Team record past five years: 374-436 (.462, ranks 22nd in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: OF Jeromy Burnitz (FA/Dodgers), 3B Vinny Castilla (FA/Braves), SS Royce Clayton (FA/Brewers), IF Benji Gil (FA/Angels), C Todd Greene (FA/Rangers), IF Damian Jackson (FA/Red Sox), LHP Joe Kennedy (trade/Devil Rays), IF Aaron Miles (trade/White Sox).
Losses: IF Mark Bellhorn (trade/Red Sox), 2B Ronnie Belliard (FA/Indians), IF Brent Butler (FA/Cardinals), RHP Nelson Cruz (FA), RHP Scott Elarton (FA), C Bobby Estalella (FA), RHP Jose Jimenez (FA), IF Greg Norton (FA), LHP Darren Oliver (FA), OF Jay Payton (FA), OF Chris Richard (FA), LHP Jesus Sanchez (FA), RHP Justin Speier (trade/Blue Jays), IF Chris Stynes (FA/Pirates), IF Juan Uribe (trade/White Sox), C Gregg Zaun (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: KOA-AM (850), Spanish: KMXA-AM (1060)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Rocky Mountain
Website: coloradorockies@mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Colorado Springs (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Tulsa (Texas)
Class A: Visalia (California), Asheville (South Atlantic), Tri-City (Northwest)
Rookie: Casper (Pioneer)

Coors Field

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 50,449
Ticket information: 800-388-7625

Spring training: Hi Corbett Field (Tucson, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 800-388-7625

CATCHING Johnson set a club record for catchers with 20 home runs. He reported to camp in good shape and put to rest criticism of his work ethic in Florida. Johnson also was a calming influence for the young staff. But the long games in Colorado's energy-zapping altitude dictate that the team find a backup who is capable of turning hot when Johnson goes cold with the bat.

The Rockies hope veteran Todd Greene can be that man. Greene, who played for the Rangers last season, also can be a streaky hitter. Prospect J.D. Closser is not quite ready for the big leagues. **GRADE: C**

ROBERT SEALE / TSN
Preston Wilson

INFIELD Helton, who struggled with back pain in 2002, chose exercise over surgery and returned last season to his 30-homer, 100-RBI production level. A walk in the season's final at-bat cost him a chance to overtake St. Louis' Albert Pujols for the N.L. batting title.

The rest of the infield has changed, though a familiar face returns to play third base. Vinny Castilla, who hit 203 home runs for the Rockies from 1993-1999, still has power and a strong arm. He also has playoff experience after stints with the Astros and Braves.

The Rockies dealt error-prone shortstop Juan Uribe to the White Sox for second baseman Aaron Miles, who has posted impressive minor league numbers. Miles will compete with Benji Gil for the second base job in what figures to be an inexperienced middle infield. Shortstop Clint Barmes hit well during a late-season call-up but needs to improve his range.

Third base prospect Garrett Atkins struggled during a late 2003 trial and will have to alleviate fears about both his offense and defense if he wants to make the team. Other backup hopefuls are Jeff Baker, a former Clemson star, and Ian Stewart, a 2003 No. 1 pick with a power stroke. **GRADE: C-**

OUTFIELD The Rockies dealt Juan Pierre to Florida and watched him go on a hero's tour after the 2003 World Series. But one of the players they got in return enjoyed a pretty good year of his own. Wilson hit a career-high 36 home runs, drove in an N.L.-best 141 runs and provided valuable leadership.

Defensively, Wilson displayed range, fearlessness, a penchant for the outstanding catch and the best arm of any center fielder in the club's history. But late in the year, his defense suffered and his average dropped because of the physical beating he took.

Jeromy Burnitz, a lefthanded slugger who hit 31 home runs last season in combined duty with the Mets and Dodgers, was signed as a free-agent replacement for Payton. The former Milwaukee All-Star has topped 30 homers in five of his last six seasons.

Right fielder Walker, at age 37, must show that 2003 was a temporary glitch in his outstanding career. Knee and shoulder injuries held him back offensively and even his Gold Glove defense was missing. Walker, wanting to prove he is not done, worked hard with strength and conditioning coach Brad Andress over the winter.

Rene Reyes, a .343 hitter last season at Colorado Springs, could see backup duty. Reyes, who batted only .259 in a 53-game trial with the Rockies, can play any of the three outfield position. **GRADE: B-**

Thomas Harding covers the Rockies for MLB.com.

Rockies Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 ARI	7 ARI	8 ARI	9 LA	10 LA
11 LA	12 ARI	13	14 ARI	15 ARI	16 STL	17 STL
18 STL	19	20 LA	21 LA	22 LA	23 HOU	24 HOU
25 HOU	26 FLA	27 FLA	28 FLA	29	30 ATL	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 ATL
2 ATL	3	4 MON	5 MON	6 MON	7 CHC	8 CHC
9 CHC	10	11 PIT	12 PIT	13 PIT	14 PHI	15 PHI
16 PHI	17 PHI	18 CIN	19 CIN	20 CIN	21 NYM	22 NYM
23 NYM	24	25 SD	26 SD	27 SD	28 SF	29 SF
30 SF	31 SD					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 SD	2 SD	3	4 SF	5 SF
6 SF	7 SF	8 NYY	9 NYY	10 NYY	11 TB	12 TB
13 TB	14	15 BOS	16 BOS	17 BOS	18 BAL	19 BAL
20 BAL	21	22 MIL	23 MIL	24 MIL	25 CLE	26 CLE
27 CLE	28	29 MIL	30 MIL			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 MIL	2 DET	3 DET
4 DET	5 SF	6 SF	7 SF	8 SD	9 SD	10 SD
11 SD	12	13 All-Star	14	15 SF	16 SF	17 SF
18 SF	19 SD	20 SD	21 LA	22 LA	23 ARI	24 ARI
25 ARI	26 LA	27 LA	28 LA	29 LA	30 ARI	31 ARI

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 ARI	2	3 CHC	4 CHC	5 CHC	6 CIN	7 CIN
8 CIN	9 PHI	10 PHI	11 PHI	12 PHI	13 PIT	14 PIT
15 PIT	16	17 NYM	18 NYM	19 NYM	20 MON	21 MON
22 MON	23	24 ATL	25 ATL	26 ATL	27 FLA	28 FLA
29 FLA	30	31 SF				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 SF	2 SF	3 SD	4 SD
5 SD	6	7 SF	8 SF	9 SD	10 SD	11 SD
12 SD	13 ARI	14 ARI	15 ARI	16 ARI	17 LA	18 LA
19 LA	20	21 ARI	22 ARI	23 ARI	24 STL	25 STL
26 STL	27 LA	28 LA	29 LA	30 LA		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 HOU	2 HOU
3 HOU	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Clint Hurdle (13). Coaches: Sandy Alomar (2), Bob Apodaca (36), Dave Collins (29), Duane Espy (52), Rick Mathews (53), Jamie Quirk (9).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
43	Bernero, Adam	R/R	6-4/210	27	Detroit	1-12	6.08	18/17	0	100.2	104	68	68	41	54
					Colorado	0-2	5.23	31/0	0	32.2	33	22	19	13	26
34	Chacon, Shawn	R/R	6-3/212	26	Colo. Springs	0-0	6.00	1/1	0	3.0	5	2	2	0	2
					Colorado	11-8	4.60	23/23	0	137.0	124	73	70	58	93
28	Cook, Aaron	R/R	6-3/205	25	Colo. Springs	1-1	2.25	2/2	0	16.0	10	4	4	4	12
					Colorado	4-6	6.02	43/16	0	124.0	160	89	83	57	43
	Dohmann, Scott	R/R	6-1/180	26	Tulsa	9-4	4.13	50/4	4	93.2	94	47	43	29	102
40	Fuentes, Brian	L/L	6-4/220	28	Colorado	3-3	2.75	75/0	4	75.1	64	24	23	34	82
	Hampson, Justin	L/L	6-1/180	23	Tulsa	0-1	13.50	1/1	0	4.0	8	6	6	3	0
					Visalia	14-7	3.68	26/26	0	159.0	153	73	65	51	150
	Huisman, Justin	R/R	6-1/195	24	Tulsa	7-2	1.75	57/0	26	61.2	55	22	12	7	46
32	Jennings, Jason	L/R	6-2/245	25	Colorado	12-13	5.11	32/32	0	181.1	212	115	103	88	119
	Kennedy, Joe	R/L	6-4/237	24	Orlando	0-0	8.10	1/1	0	3.1	6	3	3	1	3
					Durham	1-0	1.42	1/1	0	6.1	6	1	1	0	4
					Tampa Bay	3-12	6.13	32/22	1	133.2	167	101	91	47	77
45	Lopez, Javier	L/L	6-4/200	26	Colorado	4-1	3.70	75/0	1	58.1	58	25	24	12	40
15	Neagle, Denny	L/L	6-3/225	35	Visalia	1-0	0.00	2/2	0	10.0	4	0	0	2	13
					Colo. Springs	3-0	3.38	4/4	0	24.0	28	10	9	4	16
					Colorado	2-4	7.90	7/7	0	35.1	47	31	31	12	21
39	Reed, Steve	R/R	6-2/212	38	Colorado	5-3	3.27	67/0	0	63.1	59	24	23	26	39
	Simpson, Allan	R/R	6-4/185	26	Tacoma	2-5	4.16	43/0	1	62.2	60	30	29	42	69
41	Stark, Denny	R/R	6-2/210	29	Visalia	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	4.0	2	0	0	1	5
					Tulsa	0-1	6.23	1/1	0	4.1	4	5	3	4	3
					Colo. Springs	0-2	5.95	4/4	0	19.2	22	14	13	9	10
					Colorado	3-3	5.83	17/13	0	78.2	98	57	51	33	30
71	Tsao, Chin-hui	R/R	6-2/177	22	Tulsa	11-4	2.46	18/18	0	113.1	88	34	31	26	125
					Colorado	3-3	6.02	9/8	0	43.1	48	30	29	20	29
	Vance, Cory	L/L	6-1/195	24	Colo. Springs	9-11	4.63	24/24	0	157.1	179	89	81	50	96
					Colorado	1-3	5.60	9/3	0	27.1	31	19	17	10	12
	White, Matt	R/L	6-1/180	26	Sarasota	0-0	0.00	2/2	0	5.0	6	1	0	1	2
					Portland	0-0	0.00	2/1	0	3.0	1	1	0	2	3
					Pawtucket	0-0	0.00	2/0	0	3.1	1	1	0	0	5
					Boston	0-1	27.00	3/0	0	3.2	10	11	11	3	0
					Seattle	0-0	13.50	3/0	0	2.0	3	3	3	2	0
					Buffalo	2-3	2.13	19/1	0	42.1	36	12	10	16	34
49	Young, Jason	R/R	6-5/210	24	Colo. Springs	6-7	3.95	23/21	0	116.1	128	63	51	37	99
					Colorado	0-2	8.44	8/3	0	21.1	34	22	20	9	18

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Closser, J.D.	S/R	5-10/175	24	Tulsa	.283	118	410	62	116	28	5	13	54	47	79	3
	Greene, Todd	R/R	5-10/208	32	Frisco	.333	3	9	3	3	0	0	2	4	2	2	0
					Texas	.229	62	205	25	47	10	1	10	20	2	47	0
23	Johnson, Charles	R/R	6-3/250	32	Colorado	.230	108	356	49	82	20	0	20	61	49	84	1

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Atkins, Garrett	R/R	6-3/210	24	Colo. Springs	.319	118	439	80	140	30	1	13	67	45	52	2
					Colorado	.159	25	69	6	11	2	0	0	4	3	14	0
	Baker, Jeff	R/R	6-2/210	22	Asheville	.289	70	263	44	76	17	0	11	44	30	79	4
	Barmes, Clint	R/R	6-0/175	25	Colo. Springs	.276	136	493	63	136	35	1	7	54	22	63	12
					Colorado	.320	12	25	2	8	2	0	0	2	0	10	0
	Castilla, Vinny	R/R	6-1/205	36	Atlanta	.277	147	542	65	150	28	3	22	76	26	86	1
	Gonzalez, Luis A.	R/R	5-11/170	24	Akron	.318	116	431	72	137	22	4	7	62	46	41	1
					Burlington	.171	64	210	15	36	3	0	3	15	12	58	0
	Hawpe, Brad	L/L	6-3/200	24	Tulsa	.277	93	346	52	96	27	0	17	68	31	84	1
17	Helton, Todd	L/L	6-2/204	30	Colorado	.358	160	583	135	209	49	5	33	117	111	72	0
	Miles, Aaron	B/R	5-8/170	27	Charlotte	.304	133	546	80	166	34	5	11	50	40	52	8
					Chicago A.L.	.333	8	12	3	4	3	0	0	2	0	0	0

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Burnitz, Jeromy	L/R	6-0/213	34	Binghamton	.231	3	13	1	3	0	0	1	3	0	4	1
					New York N.L.	.274	65	234	38	64	18	0	18	45	21	55	1
					Los Angeles	.204	61	230	25	47	4	0	13	32	14	57	4
	Freeman, Choo	R/R	6-2/200	24	Colo. Springs	.254	103	327	44	83	9	4	7	36	23	71	2
	Holliday, Matt	R/R	6-4/235	24	Tulsa	.253	135	522	65	132	28	5	12	72	43	74	15
	Miller, Tony	R/R	5-9/180	23	Visalia	.248	67	266	47	66	14	5	4	31	40	58	11
	Piedra, Jorge	L/L	6-0/190	24	Tulsa	.275	96	357	56	98	17	7	18	53	31	50	5
	Reyes, Rene	B/R	5-11/213	26	Colo. Springs	.343	98	370	60	127	23	3	6	50	22	56	12
					Colorado	.259	53	116	13	30	7	1	2	7	5	19	2
	Sullivan, Cory	L/L	6-0/180	24	Tulsa	.300	135	557	81	167	34	8	5	61	39	83	17
33	Walker, Larry	L/R	6-3/235	37	Colorado	.284	143	454	86	129	25	7	16	79	98	87	7
44	Wilson, Preston	R/R	6-2/213	29	Colorado	.282	155	600	94	169	43	1	36	141	54	139	14

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Travis Driskill, RHP Jason Gilfillan, RHP Tim Harikkala, RHP Marc Kroon, RHP Jeff Tam, RHP Brian Tollberg, SS Royce Clayton, IF Benji Gil, IF Damian Jackson, IF Andy Tracy, OF Mark Sweeney.

PROJECTED N.L. EAST FINISH: 2ND

MARLINS

By Joe Frisaro/MLB.com

Rarely has such a flippant comment sounded so brilliant. On the eve of the playoffs, pitcher Josh Beckett was asked if the Marlins were too inexperienced to make a serious World Series run.

Without hesitation, the 23-year-old Texan replied, "I don't know. Youth brings stupidity. And we just might be stupid enough to win the whole thing."

Beckett's prophetic words told the happy story of his team's stunning 2003 championship journey. Not given a prayer to finish higher than fourth in the National League East Division last season, the Marlins shocked the world by winning "the whole thing."

Rallying behind yanked-from-retirement manager Jack McKeon, the young Marlins showed remarkable maturity. Inheriting a 16-22 team from Jeff Torborg, who was dismissed on May 11, McKeon orchestrated one of the greatest turnarounds in history. The wild-card Marlins finished with a 91-71 record, second behind Atlanta in the N.L. East, and earned the franchise's second World Series championship in their 11-year history. Oddly enough, those title years also are the team's only two winning seasons.

TSNUMBER

978

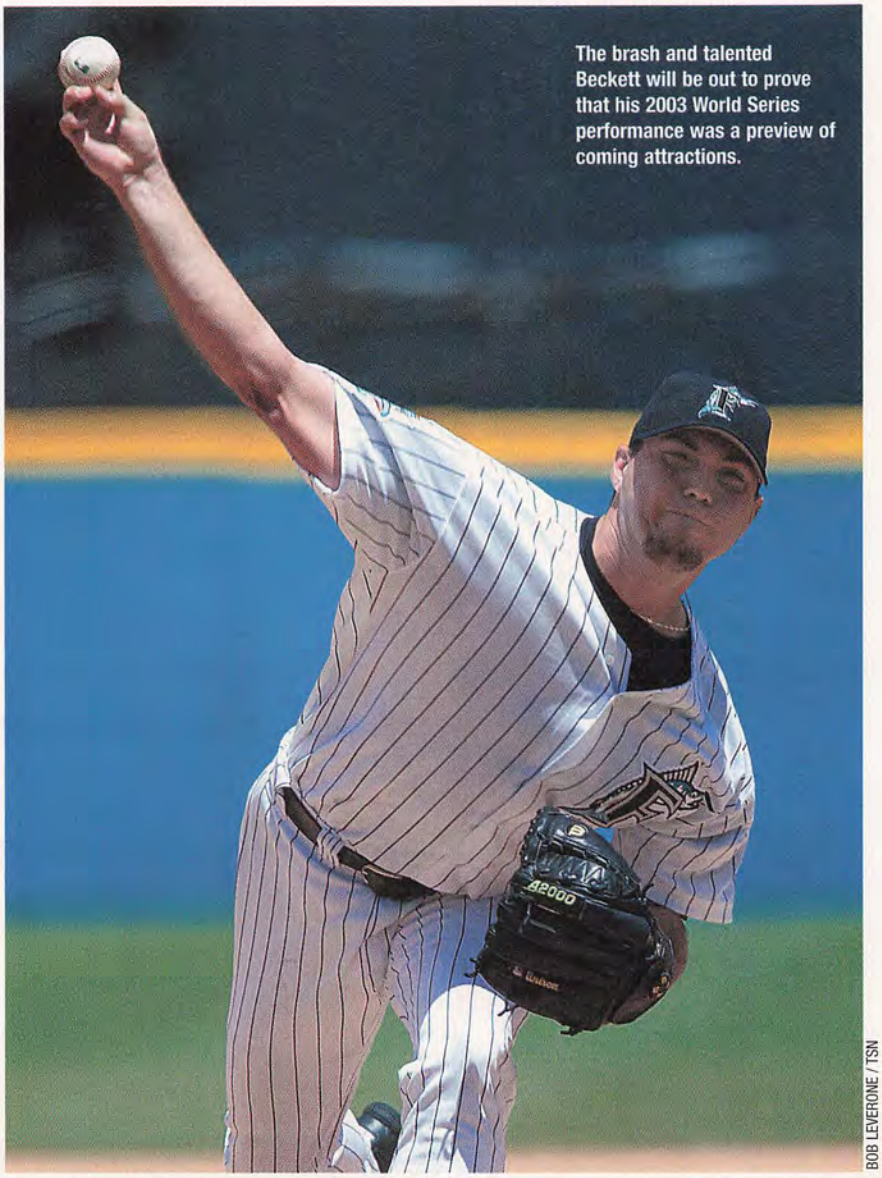
Strikeouts by Marlins players—the third-lowest figure in the N.L. The team improved from 1,130 in 2002, third most in the league.

Unlike in 1997, however, team owner Jeffrey Loria pledged there would be no dismantling of this title squad. The team will not remain intact—that would have cost about $90 million, approximately $30 million over budget—but the Marlins will be in playoff contention as long as their potentially stellar starting pitching holds up.

The Marlins found a winning formula by building on pitching, speed and defense. It is sound logic that played nicely in spacious Pro Player Stadium, notorious for its 400-foot flyouts to right and left-center. A little bit of luck, a lot of determination and a few breaks along the way did not hurt in 2003.

MANAGER If general manager Larry Beinfest had not called, McKeon would have been perfectly happy living at his Elon, N.C., home, riding his tractor, smoking cigars and watching his grandchildren play sports.

Then 72, McKeon was just over two seasons removed from being fired as manager of the Reds—the year after he was named the N.L.'s top manager in 1999.



The brash and talented Beckett will be out to prove that his 2003 World Series performance was a preview of coming attractions.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

With the Marlins, McKeon inherited a mess. They were six games under .500 and three starting pitchers were on the disabled list: A.J. Burnett (elbow ligament replacement surgery), Beckett (sore right elbow) and Mark Redman (broken left thumb).

Talks were rampant that All-Star third baseman Mike Lowell was going to be traded. All-Star second baseman Luis Castillo, too, was rumored to be leaving.

McKeon got rid of all the distractions, convinced his players to believe they could win through hard work and got in the face of anybody who challenged his plan. The Marlins went 75-49 under McKeon, who was named N.L. Manager of the Year.

McKeon's greatest strength was pressing the proper buttons to make players perform. Brutally honest, he held them accountable. He questioned the work ethic of players who didn't take the extra step.

The big question is whether McKeon still has that Midas touch. He took 20-year-old rookie Miguel Cabrera, who had never played right field, and started him there in the NLCS. McKeon also worked Cabrera, who played left field and third base in the regular season, at shortstop in the postsea-

son. And McKeon took heat for starting Beckett on three days' rest in Game 6 of the World Series. Beckett tossed a five-hit shutout, striking out nine, as the Marlins closed out New York 2-0 at Yankee Stadium.

Until his strategies backfire, it is tough to argue with McKeon's methods. His World Series ring and Manager of the Year award are testament to that. **GRADE: A**

ROTATION Finally, Florida's young guns are worthy of being mentioned in the same breath as those of the Cubs and A's.

If the second half of 2003 and the postseason are any indication, Beckett is a blossoming star. The key for him is remaining healthy. He missed seven weeks with a sore elbow and went on the D.L. three times with blisters. Beckett's mechanics are nearly flawless. His fastball is 96-98 mph, and combined with his curveball and changeup, it can be dominating. He needs to show that postseason poise all the time and continue to display an improved work ethic.

Like Beckett, Brad Penny is a hard-throwing righthander with a nasty hook. Penny's problem is he tends to overthrow when he gets into a jam. In the postseason, he had his ups and downs, which should help his maturation process. Conversely, Carl Pavano was the surprise of the postseason, stepping up in both relief and starting roles. He has the ability to be a solid No. 3 or 4 starter.

Rookie of the Year Dontrelle Willis is credited with turning the team around by going 9-1 (2.08 ERA) before the 2003 break. But which Willis will the Marlins get—the 22-year-old lefthander who made the All-Star team, or the guy who was 5-5 (4.60 ERA) over the second half? For Willis to be effective, he must contain that herky-jerky windup, get command of his fastball and gain more confidence in his slider.

The staff's secret weapon could be Burnett, who is expected to return from surgery. Burnett entered last season as the ace, but encountered elbow problems in spring training. An avid weightlifter and hard worker, Burnett should be available before June. How he is used will be key. The Marlins likely will make him a starter, but he could get some relief work. He was throwing 99 mph before the injury and had a sweeping curveball. **GRADE: B+**

BULLPEN A strength over the second half has become the big question mark. Ugueth Urbina and Braden Looper, the team's 2003 closers, are gone. Stopper duties will go to 31-year-old newcomer Armando Benitez, a hard-throwing righthander who has compiled 197 career saves. The Marlins hope to get a consistency from Benitez (197-of-232 in save opportunities over a 10-year career) that was sometimes lacking in last season's closers. Veteran Chad Fox came through over the final two months, and the 33-year-old righthander is nicely suited for the setup role. He also has experience closing.

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A Cy Young-caliber season for RHP **Josh Beckett**. With his improving work ethic and overpowering stuff—and seeming recovery from blister and elbow problems—20 wins certainly are possible.
2. Stardom for RF **Miguel Cabrera**. He came of age in the postseason as a 20-year-old, and he could be a 20-homer, 100-RBI performer in his first full big-league season. Cabrera has hit at every level.
3. A possible sophomore slump for LHP **Dontrelle Willis**. If the N.L. Rookie of the Year does not regain command of his fastball and improve his slider and changeup, he may be moved to the bullpen.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

They will miss (Derrek) Lee a lot, especially on defense. I'm not sure (Hee Seop) Choi is the answer at first. I do like him and think he can be a fine player. But he has so little experience. He is a lefty bat with some power. The stadium he will play in won't help him too much, because it is a tough home run park. In the minors, Choi sprayed doubles into the gaps. His swing has some holes that need to be corrected. ... Whether (Jack) McKeon can recreate the magic, who knows? There were so many times I watched Jack's moves and thought, 'What is he doing?' He rode rookie Dontrelle Willis very hard, putting a lot of pressure on the kid. The way Josh Beckett pitched in the playoffs, it will be curious to see if McKeon overuses him. Jack is a bright guy. But he works the hot pitcher perhaps to the point of breaking him down. How McKeon uses Beckett, Willis and some of those other strong arms will be interesting and key for the team's future.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Juan Pierre, CF	**6**
Slap hitter, no power, low on-base percentage.	
2. Luis Castillo, 2B	**5**
If healthy, he should steal more than 30 bases.	
3. Miguel Cabrera, RF	**5**
Promising clutch hitter who strikes out too much.	
4. Mike Lowell, 3B	**6**
Emerging power hitter has plenty of potential.	
5. Jeff Conine, LF	**5**
A seasoned pro who does what it takes.	
6. Hee Seop Choi, 1B	**4**
The lone power lefty in the lineup.	
7. Ramon Castro, C	**4**
Can hit ball out of park, but he's inconsistent.	
8. Alex Gonzalez, SS	**4**
Needs patience; should stop pulling everything.	
Starters	
1. Josh Beckett, RH	**7**
On the brink of stardom if he stays healthy.	
2. Brad Penny, RH	**6**
Hot and cold, but he has tools. Work habits iffy.	
3. Carl Pavano, RH	**5**
Finally living up to early billing.	
4. Dontrelle Willis, LH	**5**
Must command fastball or could suffer a fall.	
5. A.J. Burnett, RH	**6**
Could join rotation by June and be stretch-run key.	
Closer	
Armando Benitez, RH	**6**
Veteran fireballer could provide consistency.	
Total	**74**

Solidifying the back end of the bullpen will be a work in progress. The team needs an established lefthander. Willis could be the answer if he does not regain consistency as a starter, and Michael Tejera is a swing starter who could join the rotation until Burnett is ready. He is not overpowering, but his curveball, when on, is a quality out pitch.

Tommy Phelps is another lefthander who does not throw hard. Phelps fought arm and knee problems over the second half.

McKeon likes to find two or three relievers and stick with them. After Fox and Benitez, the bullpen is thin. **GRADE: C**

CATCHING You get spoiled with Ivan Rodriguez behind the plate. But the Marlins must move on without the 10-time Gold Glove winner.

Catching duties will go to untested Ramon Castro and veteran Mike Redmond. Castro, a former first-round pick of the Astros, is an interesting talent. Because he was out of minor league options, the Marlins carried him as third catcher the past two seasons. He and Redmond were projected to share the position last season before Rodriguez signed and played 144 games (134 starts).

Castro has power. He hit five homers in 53 at-bats last season and has 15 in 370 career at-bats. Because he is a righthanded pull hitter, Castro could be productive at Pro Player Stadium. His home run total should be more than the 16 Rodriguez hit in 2003.

Redmond is more established handling the pitching staff. An ideal backup, Redmond is a .290 career hitter who does not offer much power. **GRADE: C+**

INFIELD In the NFL, running backs often give gifts to their offensive linemen for opening up gaping holes. The Marlins pitchers should consider buying dinner every so often for their infielders. It is the strongest unit of the team and routinely saves runs with good range and intelligent play.

Third baseman Lowell and second baseman Castillo are two-time All-Stars who signed long-term deals in the offseason.

Shortstop Alex Gonzalez, although inconsistent at the plate, is among the best defensive players at his position. The Castillo-Gonzalez tandem up the middle is something the Marlins are eager to preserve.

The most gaping defensive hole is at first base. The team traded Derrek Lee to the Cubs for untested Hee Seop Choi. Lee won his first Gold Glove while Choi had an injury-plagued rookie season, including time on the D.L. with a concussion after colliding with pitcher Kerry Wood while chasing a foul ball. Lee's bat, too, will be missed. He had a career-high 31 home runs.

Offensively, Lowell enjoyed a career year with 32 homers and 105 RBIs. Castillo, a spark with his speed, paced the team with a .314 average while scoring 99 runs.

Whatever offense Gonzalez provides is a bonus. Often impatient, he still managed career highs for homers (18) and RBIs (77).

Choi provides a needed lefthanded bat with power potential. If he struggles, Jeff Conine can switch from left field to first base. Conine might play first anyway against lefthanded starters. **GRADE: A-**

OUTFIELD What center fielder Juan Pierre lacks in power, he makes up for with speed. He is a perfect fit patrolling the middle for the Marlins, and he gets the offense running as leadoff hitter. He batted .305, scored 100 runs and set franchise records for hits (204) and stolen bases (65) last season.

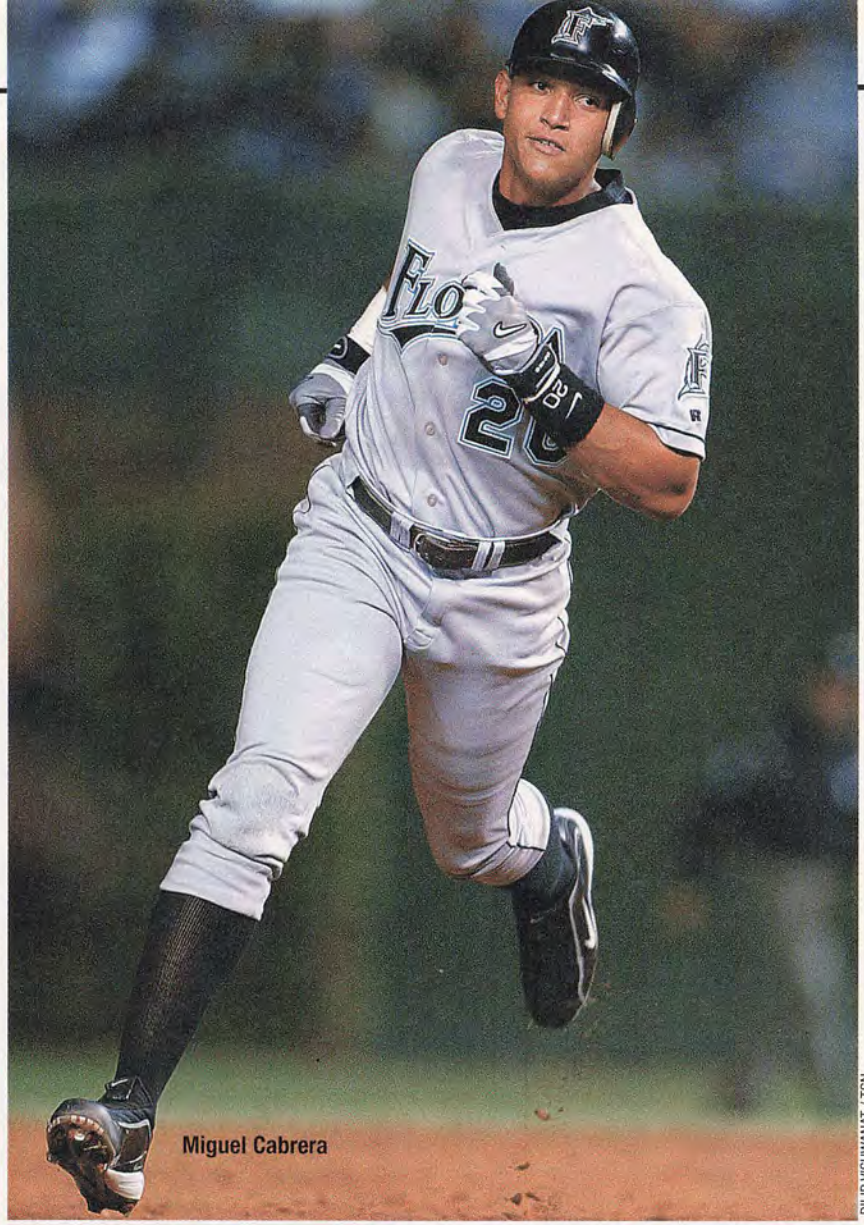
Defensively, Pierre covered a lot of ground, but his throwing arm is below average and runners do take the extra base.

At 37, Conine still has some solid baseball left in him. He is a heady performer in left field and offensively has 20-home run, 90-RBI potential.

Taking over for Juan Encarnacion in right field will be Cabrera. A rising star, Cabrera turns 21 in April and already has drawn comparisons to Albert Pujols. He has a major upside, with 30-home run, 100-RBI and .300-average potential. Mature beyond his years, Cabrera hit cleanup in the World Series, and he was solid all season in hitting with runners in scoring position (.375).

Can he make the conversion to right field? Cabrera's natural position is shortstop, but he is athletic enough to play in the outfield. He also has the strongest arm on the team. **GRADE: B**

Joe Frisaro covers the Marlins for MLB.com.


Miguel Cabrera

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Marlins Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.266	.262
Runs	751	747
Hits	1459	1445
Home runs	157	169
Stolen bases	150	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.04	4.28
Complete games	7	6
Saves	36	41
Walks	530	549
Strikeouts	1132	1067
Errors	78	106

WINS AND LOSSES

91-71 (2nd in N.L. East), 53-28 at home, 38-43 on road, 48-28 vs. N.L. East, 19-20 vs. N.L. Central, 15-17 vs. N.L. West, 9-6 vs. A.L., 26-11 vs. LH starters, 65-60 vs. RH starters, 83-63 on grass, 8-8 on turf, 19-23 in daytime, 72-48 at night, 30-23 in one-run games, 6-4 in extra-inning games, 1-0-0 in doubleheaders.

Jack McKeon's record: 75-49, 1 season with Marlins; 845-782, 13 seasons (Royals, Athletics, Padres, Reds, Marlins).

Postseason: 11-6, 1 season with Marlins; 1 World Series championship (2003).

Team record past five years: 389-420 (.481, ranks 19th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Armando Benitez (FA/Mariners), 1B Hee Seop Choi (trade/Cubs), RHP Mike Neu (trade/Athletics).

Losses: LHP Armando Almanza (FA/Braves), OF Juan Encarnacion (trade/Dodgers), IF Andy Fox (FA/Rangers), RHP Rick Helling (FA), OF Todd Hollandsworth (FA/Cubs), 1B Derrek Lee (trade/Cubs), RHP Braden Looper (FA/Mets), LHP Mark Redman (trade/Athletics), C Ivan Rodriguez (FA), RHP Ugueth Urbina (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: WQAM-AM (560), WQBA-AM (1140, Spanish)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net
Website: marlins.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Albuquerque (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Carolina (Southern)
Class A: Greensboro (South Atlantic), Jamestown (New York-Pennsylvania), Jupiter (Florida State)
Rookie: Gulf Coast Marlins (Gulf Coast)

Pro Player Stadium

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 36,331
Ticket information: 1-877-627-5467

Spring training: Roger Dean Stadium (Jupiter, Fla.)
Ticket information: 561-775-1818

Marlins Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 MON	7 MON	8 MON	9 PHI	10 PHI
11 PHI	12	13 * MON	14 * MON	15 * MON	16 ATL	17 ATL
18 ATL	19	20 PHI	21 PHI	22 PHI	23 ATL	24 ATL
25 ATL	26 COL	27 COL	28 COL	29 SF	30 SF	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 SF
2 SF	3	4 LA	5 LA	6 LA	7 SD	8 SD
9 SD	10	11 HOU	12 HOU	13 HOU	14 STL	15 STL
16 STL	17	18 HOU	19 HOU	20 HOU	21 ARI	22 ARI
23 ARI	24 ARI	25 CIN	26 CIN	27 CIN	28 NYM	29 NYM
30 NYM	31 CIN					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 CIN	2 CIN	3 NYM	4 NYM	5 NYM
6 NYM	7	8 CLE	9 CLE	10 CLE	11 DET	12 DET
13 DET	14	15 CHW	16 CHW	17 CHW	18 TEX	19 TEX
20 TEX	21	22 ATL	23 ATL	24 ATL	25 TB	26 TB
27 TB	28 ATL	29 ATL	30 ATL			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 ATL	2 TB	3 TB
4 TB	5 PIT	6 PIT	7 PIT	8	9 NYM	10 NYM
11 NYM	12	13 All-Star	14	15	16 PIT	17 PIT
18 PIT	19 NYM	20 NYM	21 PHI	22 PHI	23 MON	24 MON
25 MON	26 PHI	27 PHI	28 PHI	29 PHI	30 MON	31 MON

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 MON	2	3 ARI	4 ARI	5 ARI	6 MIL	7 MIL
8 MIL	9	10 STL	11 STL	12 STL	13 MIL	14 MIL
15 MIL	16 LA	17 LA	18 LA	19	20 SD	21 SD
22 SD	23	24 SF	25 SF	26 SF	27 COL	28 COL
29 COL	30 NYM	31 NYM				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 NYM	2 NYM	3 CHC	4 CHC
5 CHC	6	7 NYM	8 NYM	9 NYM	10 CHC	11 CHC
12 CHC	13 MON	14 MON	15 MON	16 MON	17 ATL	18 ATL
19 ATL	20	21 PHI	22 PHI	23 PHI	24 ATL	25 ATL
26 ATL	27 MON	28 MON	29 MON	30 PHI		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 PHI	2 PHI
3 PHI	4	5	6	7	8	9

* San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Jack McKeon (15). Coaches: Pierre Arsenault (67), Jeff Cox (47), Doug Davis (23), Perry Hill (16), Bill Robinson (28), Wayne Rosenthal (26), Tony Taylor.

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
21	Beckett, Josh	R/R	6-5/218	23	Jupiter	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	3.0	2	0	0	0	5
					Carolina	0-0	4.50	1/1	0	4.0	4	2	2	0	7
					Florida	9-8	3.04	24/23	0	142.0	132	54	48	56	152
	Belizario, Ronald	R/R	6-2/150	21	Greensboro	5-1	3.00	10/8	0	48.0	41	23	16	18	45
					Jupiter	1-2	4.91	6/4	0	18.1	20	10	10	8	13
	Benitez, Armando	R/R	6-4/229	31	New York N.L.	3-3	3.10	45/0	21	49.1	41	18	17	24	50
					New York A.L.	1-1	1.93	9/0	0	9.1	8	4	2	6	10
					Seattle	0-0	3.14	15/0	0	14.1	10	5	5	11	15
	Bump, Nate	R/R	6-2/185	27	Albuquerque	6-5	4.43	15/15	0	85.1	89	48	42	24	52
					Florida	4-0	4.71	32/0	0	36.1	34	21	19	20	17
34	Burnett, A.J.	R/R	6-4/232	27	Florida	0-2	4.70	4/4	0	23.0	18	13	12	18	21
	Cave, Kevin	R/R	6-2/220	23	Jupiter	2-2	1.60	39/0	23	45.0	36	11	8	14	43
	Flannery, Michael	R/R	6-1/195	24	Carolina	7-3	2.31	56/0	23	58.1	42	20	15	26	50
49	Fox, Chad	R/R	6-3/190	33	Sarasota	0-0	4.50	2/1	0	2.0	2	1	1	1	1
					Pawtucket	0-0	13.50	1/0	0	1.1	3	3	2	1	2
					Portland	0-0	0.00	1/0	0	1.1	1	0	0	2	2
					Boston	1-2	4.50	17/0	3	18.0	19	10	9	17	19
					Albuquerque	0-0	3.86	3/0	0	2.1	4	1	1	1	5
					Florida	2-1	2.13	21/0	0	25.1	16	6	6	14	27
	Gracesqui, FranklynS/L		6-5/210	24	Carolina	3-3	2.48	44/0	5	58.0	44	19	16	43	75
	Holdzkom, Lincoln	R/R	6-4/240	22	Greensboro	1-4	2.84	43/0	4	57.0	36	24	18	27	74
					Jupiter	0-2	3.07	13/0	2	14.2	9	6	5	7	20
39	Neal, Blaine	L/R	6-5/240	25	Albuquerque	3-2	2.33	40/0	21	46.1	55	22	12	16	32
					Florida	0-0	8.14	18/0	0	21.0	38	20	19	9	10
	Neu, Mike	B/R	5-10/175	26	Oakland	0-0	3.64	32/0	1	42.0	43	18	17	26	20
45	Pavano, Carl	R/R	6-5/235	28	Florida	12-13	4.30	33/32	0	201.0	204	99	96	49	133
31	Penny, Brad	R/R	6-4/250	25	Florida	14-10	4.13	32/32	0	196.1	195	96	90	56	138
	Phelps, Tommy	L/L	6-3/192	30	Albuquerque	0-0	1.17	5/0	0	7.2	5	1	1	3	13
					Florida	3-2	4.00	27/7	0	63.0	70	32	28	23	43
					Jupiter	0-0	6.00	2/1	0	3.0	5	2	2	0	3
	Spooneybarger, T.	R/R	6-3/190	24	Florida	1-2	4.07	33/0	0	42.0	27	21	19	11	32
58	Tejera, Michael	L/L	5-9/190	27	Florida	3-4	4.67	50/6	2	81.0	82	44	42	36	58
48	Wayne, Justin	R/R	6-3/205	24	Jupiter	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	6.0	6	0	0	0	4
					Florida	0-2	11.81	2/2	0	5.1	9	7	7	5	1
					Albuquerque	4-12	4.24	23/23	0	136.0	138	81	64	40	82
35	Willis, Dontrelle	L/L	6-4/195	22	Carolina	4-0	1.49	6/6	0	36.1	24	6	6	9	32
					Florida	14-6	3.30	27/27	0	160.2	148	61	59	58	142

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
17	Castro, Ramon	R/R	6-3/235	28	Florida	.283	40	53	6	15	2	0	5	8	4	11	0
52	Redmond, Mike	R/R	5-11/210	32	Florida	.240	59	125	12	30	7	1	0	11	7	16	0
	Willingham, Josh	R/R	6-1/200	25	Jupiter	.264	59	193	46	51	17	1	12	34	46	42	9
					Marlins	.429	2	7	3	3	1	0	1	3	1	2	0
					Carolina	.299	22	67	15	20	2	1	5	14	13	20	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1	Castillo, Luis	B/R	5-11/190	28	Florida	.314	152	595	99	187	19	6	6	39	63	60	21
	Choi, Hee Seop	L/L	6-5/240	25	Iowa	.258	18	66	12	17	4	1	6	16	9	19	0
					Chicago	.218	80	202	31	44	17	0	8	28	37	71	1
18	Conine, Jeff	R/R	6-1/220	37	Baltimore	.290	124	493	75	143	33	3	15	80	37	60	5
					Florida	.238	25	84	13	20	3	0	5	15	13	10	0
11	Gonzalez, Alex	R/R	6-0/200	27	Florida	.256	150	528	52	135	33	6	18	77	33	106	0
	Hooper, Kevin	R/R	5-10/160	27	Albuquerque	.266	130	493	77	131	9	4	1	54	35	62	25
19	Lowell, Mike	R/R	6-3/215	30	Florida	.276	130	492	76	136	27	1	32	105	56	78	3
12	Mordecai, Mike	R/R	5-10/185	36	Florida	.213	65	89	11	19	4	0	2	8	8	21	3
	Valdez, Wilson	R/R	5-11/160	25	Albuquerque	.287	90	338	45	97	12	4	0	18	19	37	33
					Carolina	.313	37	144	28	45	6	2	0	14	15	17	16
	Wilson, Josh	R/R	6-1/160	23	Carolina	.253	118	434	53	110	30	6	3	58	27	70	6

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Aguila, Chris	R/R	5-11/180	25	Marlins	.750	1	4	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	1	0
					Carolina	.320	93	337	58	108	21	3	11	55	36	67	6
	Ambres, Chip	R/R	6-1/190	24	Carolina	.258	127	380	75	98	23	8	10	55	72	81	9
22	Banks, Brian	B/R	6-3/218	33	Florida	.235	92	149	14	35	6	2	4	23	25	38	2
20	Cabrera, Miguel	R/R	6-2/185	20	Carolina	.365	69	266	46	97	29	3	10	59	31	49	9
					Florida	.268	87	314	39	84	21	3	12	62	25	84	0
27	Nunez, Abraham	B/R	6-2/186	27	Albuquerque	.311	59	212	35	66	13	2	11	38	32	56	9
					Jupiter	.276	8	29	6	8	3	0	0	2	4	9	1
9	Pierre, Juan	L/L	6-0/180	26	Florida	.305	162	668	100	204	28	7	1	41	55	35	65

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Toby Borland, LHP Cedric Bowers, RHP Bryce Florie, RHP Mike Fyhrie, RHP Delvin James, RHP David Manning, RHP Marty McLeary, LHP Matt Perisho, RHP; Scott Sanders, RHP; Aaron Small, C Matt Treanor, IF Felipe Crespo, IF Lenny Harris, IF Jason Wood, OF Ryan Christenson, OF Gerald Williams.

HOUSTON

PROJECTED N.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 2ND

ASTROS

By Alyson Footer/MLB.com

The Astros, like most teams trying to find success in today's ecnomic climate, operate by a simple annual edict: Find a way to contend every year—on a fixed budget. That is why it came as such a surprise when owner Drayton McLane came up with the money to sign two pitching prizes—Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens.

And to make the story even more shocking, Pettitte turned down larger offers from the Yankees and Red Sox, and the Rocket pushed back his celebrated retirement—both to pitch in the city they call home.

The Astros had cleared some payroll when they traded Billy Wagner to the Phillies, but that move was the first attempt to, as general manager Gerry Hunsicker stated, "regain payroll flexibility" lost by signing a few players to lucrative contracts in past years. Pettitte and Clemens, however, were special circumstances that prompted McLane to ease his stance, perhaps realizing 2004 might be the Astros' last shot at an immediate World Series.

TSNUMBER

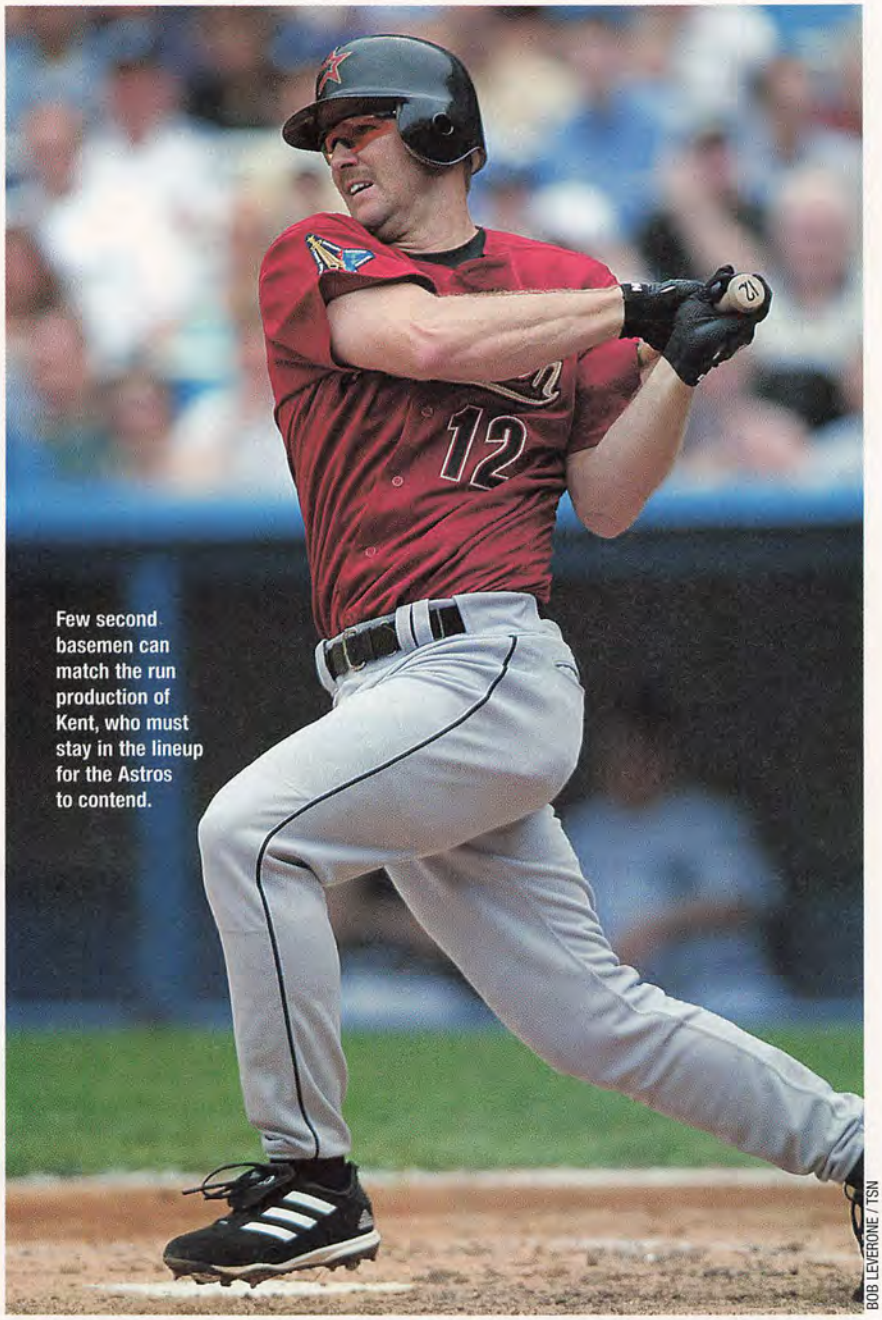
868⅔

Innings pitched by starting pitchers last season, which ranked last in the N.L. The starters must log more innings to preserve the bullpen.

While the Astros still carry the burden of several long-term contracts—Jeff Kent, Craig Biggio, Lance Berkman, Jeff Bagwell and Richard Hidalgo—most will expire after the 2004 season. Only Bagwell and Pettitte will be on the books beyond next year, which will invite a whole new round of tough decisions.

As it stands, the 2004 team looks a lot like the 2003 club with a few tweaks—primarily the addition of Pettitte and Clemens and subtraction of Wagner. Much will depend on manager Jimy Williams' ability to rebuild a bullpen around new closer Octavio Dotel.

The Astros came within a game of winning the division last year despite mediocre seasons from aces Roy Oswalt and Wade Miller. Oswalt served three stints on the disabled list, and Miller struggled through much of the season. If those two are healthy, the Astros again look to contend.



Few second basemen can match the run production of Kent, who must stay in the lineup for the Astros to contend.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

MANAGER Williams' clubs finished in second place in both of his first two seasons, but the players had high praise for him. The youngsters love him for his tireless work with them during practice, and the veterans like his no-nonsense approach and endless preparation.

Williams spends most of his time poring over statistics and his managerial style reflects it. But he is unconventional at times, especially regarding an ever-changing lineup and his penchant for giving numerous opportunities to fringe players. Williams likes to play the entire roster, believing that players only can stay fresh if they are given ample playing time.

Williams critics point to his quick hook with starting pitchers. But Williams claims the practice keeps his starters fresh. It did, however, take its toll on the bullpen last season.

Williams lets the veterans police themselves and, while he has concrete rules, he does not interfere with the day-to-day club-

house happenings. Williams' main rules are to be on time and be ready to play. As long as players adhere to that, he spends little time in the locker room. **GRADE: B-**

ROTATION The Astros fell one game short of the playoffs last season despite subpar performances by Oswalt and Miller. With a lot of good health and a little bit of Pettitte and Clemens added to the mix, it's a good bet the Astros will contend again in 2004.

Inserting the former Yankees in the rotation filled several needs. The Astros wanted a veteran presence to take the leadership burden off Oswalt and Miller, and they needed a reliable lefthander. Pettitte, of course, also anchors what now ranks as one of the N.L.'s top pitching staffs.

The team is hoping Oswalt's offseason groin surgery will help him pick up where he left off in 2003—four consecutive wins and a 2.00 ERA to end the season. A healthy Oswalt has Cy Young potential and the Astros are banking on the 26-year-old to return as the go-to starter.

Miller suffered from minor pain around his elbow for much of 2003, which hindered his performance. When healthy, he logs more innings than any other starter and gets stronger in the late innings. Miller, like Oswalt, has a fearless mound presence and thrives in big-game situations.

The addition of Clemens and his 310 career wins crowd things at the bottom of the rotation. The big Texan was 17-9 last season and as reliable as ever, which made some question his decision to retire.

Tim Redding now becomes the favorite as a fifth starter over hopefuls Brandon Duckworth, Jeriome Robertson, Jared Fernandez and Carlos Hernandez.

Redding often was a victim of low run support. But the tempestuous righthander made big strides toward gaining confidence and keeping his composure in tight situations. Robertson has excellent mound presence but struggles with control.

Duckworth was the only major leaguer Houston received in the Wagner trade, but Hernandez might have more of an upside. Hernandez appears healthy after missing 2003 because of shoulder surgery. **GRADE: B-**

BULLPEN The Astros would not have contended for the 2003 Central title without the services of a bullpen that led the league in innings pitched and employed three able closers in Brad Lidge, Dotel and Wagner. With Wagner gone, Dotel will slide into the role that he has been waiting to assume since becoming a full-time reliever in 2001.

Lidge will move into the eighth-inning setup role, and Dan Miceli has a chance to take over Lidge's former seventh-inning job. Lidge virtually was unhittable through the first three months but struggled down the stretch, perhaps from overuse. In his rookie season, Lidge tied Wagner with a team-leading 78 appearances.

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A big year from 3B **Morgan Ensberg**. He has the starting job outright after platooning with **Geoff Blum** in 2003. As an everyday player, Ensberg should build on his breakout season.
2. A 30-save season from RHP **Octavio Dotel**. Dotel, who will take over closer duties from **Billy Wagner**, will thrive in a role he has been waiting for since becoming a full-time reliever in 2001.
3. A 14-win season from RHP **Tim Redding**. The Astros can expect a more experienced, mature pitcher to help anchor the staff. Redding also has better control of his emotions.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

The bullpen is in question right now. It was their strength last year, but you can't say that right now. They have to put that back together, the back end of the bullpen. I don't doubt (Octavio) Dotel can close, but you have to wait to see him in that role before you can know for sure. ... Offensively, the older guys are getting older. (Jeff) Bagwell has gone backward, (Craig) Biggio is on his last legs. Some of their key players that they had through their successful years are aging. ... I'm not as high on John Buck as the Astros (are). He missed half the year with a broken hand, so bringing (Brad) Ausmus back was big. Also, re-signing (Jose) Vizcaino was key. They needed to solidify a bench that has a bunch of question marks around it. ... I see (Jason) Lane in center field ahead of Biggio, but I don't think the Astros are ready to do that. ... (Tim) Redding—the Astros don't trust him, but I think he'll be OK.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Craig Biggio, CF	**4**
On-base numbers are on a decline.	
2. Morgan Ensberg, 3B	**5**
Crowded lineup forces him higher in the order.	
3. Jeff Bagwell, 1B	**7**
Shoulder pain and all, still a force in the lineup.	
4. Lance Berkman, LF	**7**
Could drop in order if he again starts slowly.	
5. Jeff Kent, 2B	**6**
One of the game's most dangerous hitters.	
6. Richard Hidalgo, RF	**6**
Led the majors with 22 outfield assists.	
7. Brad Ausmus, C	**4**
Invaluable asset for young pitchers.	
8. Adam Everett, SS	**4**
A defensive gem who can hit, too.	
Starters	
1. Andy Pettitte, LH	**7**
Who says you can never go home again?	
2. Roy Oswalt, RH	**7**
Hoping groin problems are thing of the past.	
3. Wade Miller, RH	**6**
Needs to forget a mediocre '03 season.	
4. Roger Clemens, RH	**6**
The Rocket is ready for blastoff—again.	
5. Tim Redding, RH	**5**
Needs confidence to complement fastball.	
Closer	
Octavio Dotel, RH	**7**
Numbers as setup man better than most closers.	
Total	**81**

Kirk Saarloos and Ricky Stone also are expected to compete for spots. Stone provides an anchor in the middle of the bullpen, and the club is impressed with his consistent control and calmness under pressure. Stone is so cool in tight situations he earned the nickname "Captain Chaos."

Mike Gallo, the lone lefthander, showed no signs of intimidation when called up in the middle of the season. The Astros love Gallo's free spirit and competitive nature and are not hesitant to let him face righthanders in late-game situations. Minus Wagner, the Astros are without a lefthanded flame thrower and would like to add another. **GRADE: C+**

CATCHING Brad Ausmus is one of the best in the business at blocking the plate and handling young pitchers. He is an intelligent, savvy player who has a rapport with pitchers that varies from intimidation to big brother. Pitchers respect him, trust him and rarely shake off his calls. And Ausmus, who is not afraid to take an unconventional approach, often bases his pitch calling on a pitcher's ability rather than a hitter's track record.

Hurlers also like the way Ausmus treats them. He understands that pitchers are the ones who carry the burden of wins and losses, and therefore does not let his ego factor into the game plan.

Raul Chavez got his big break with six weeks left last season when the Astros summoned him from Class AAA New Orleans after the club released veteran catcher Gregg Zaun. Chavez, long considered to have the best arm in the organization, has struggled with his offense. But he flourished at the plate in 2003 and appears ready to assume the backup job. Chavez worked well with Robertson last year and probably will take the role as the lefthander's exclusive battery mate. **GRADE: A**

INFIELD This area finally became younger when Morgan Ensberg and Adam Everett emerged as legitimate starters at third base and shortstop, respectively. Ensberg started the year as the righthanded-hitting platoon

option, with Geoff Blum receiving most of the playing time. But halfway through the season, the two were splitting time. Ensberg hit 25 homers in 127 games and proved he is the starter the Astros have been waiting for. Everett, who took over on May 1 when Julio Lugo was released, lived up to his billing as a smooth-fielding shortstop and also batted .256, thanks to a more aggressive attitude.

Kent is average defensively, but his presence in the lineup is invaluable to the free-swinging offense. He missed more than a month of the 2003 season but was a force when healthy.

Bagwell produced his usual power numbers, although his average dropped significantly. His right shoulder never will be as strong as it was prior to his 2001 surgery, and he no longer can make the throws that used to be one of his best assets. But he remains one of the best-fielding first basemen and his booming bat still dominates the middle of the order.

Jose Vizcaino is a reliable utilityman who adds depth to the bench. He can play all infield positions and has provided many dramatic late-game heroics during his three years in Houston. **GRADE: B+**

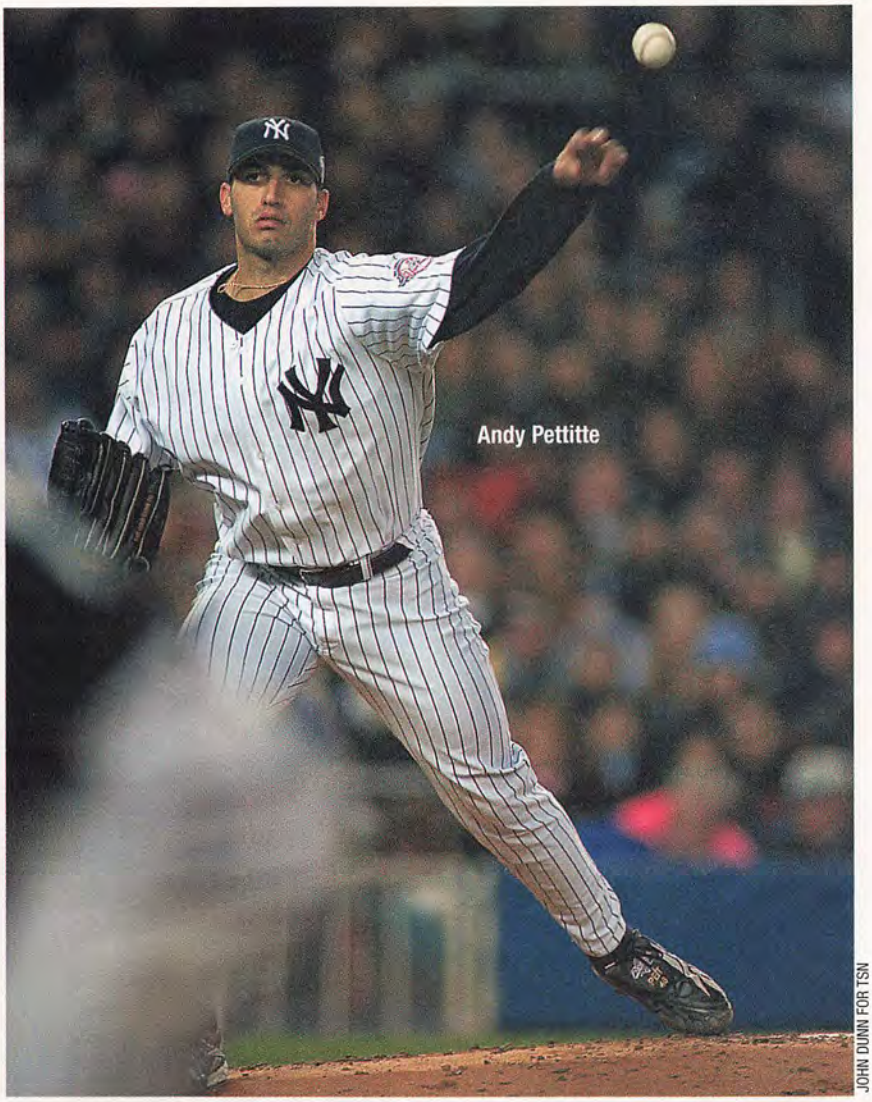
OUTFIELD Biggio was impressive in his first year as a center fielder and gave a solid effort running down balls, although his weak arm gave opponents a constant green light to take the extra base. Biggio's on-base numbers have declined over the years, but he continues to draw walks as the leadoff hitter and paces all active players in hit by pitches.

Berkman's baserunning judgment leaves plenty to be desired, but he emerged as an above-average left fielder and appeared to gain an understanding of his position. He has a strong, accurate arm, but it is offense that makes Berkman an MVP candidate. Although his numbers slipped in 2003, the club is confident he will continue to provide solid production for years.

It is no secret the club would like to rid itself of Hidalgo's contract. After two mediocre seasons, the right fielder resurfaced offensively with a .309 average and 28 home runs. Hidalgo also gained respect for his defense, leading all major league outfielders with 22 assists. He gunned down the bulk of his baserunning victims at third base.

Jason Lane, who can play every outfield spot, likely will make the club as a reserve. But he could start if the Astros make a trade. He also could be on the block himself. **GRADE: B**

Alyson Footer covers the Astros for MLB.com.


Andy Pettitte

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Astros Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.263	.262
Runs	805	747
Hits	1466	1445
Home runs	191	169
Stolen bases	66	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	3.86	4.28
Complete games	1	6
Saves	50	41
Walks	565	549
Strikeouts	1139	1067
Errors	95	106

WINS AND LOSSES

87-75 (2nd in N.L. Central), 48-33 at home, 39-42 on road, 13-17 vs. N.L. East, 49-35 vs. N.L. Central, 14-16 vs. N.L. West, 11-7 vs. A.L., 18-16 vs. LH starters, 69-59 vs. RH starters, 85-71 on grass, 2-4 on turf, 23-25 in daytime, 64-50 at night, 19-21 in one-run games, 3-8 in extra-inning games, 0-0-0 in doubleheaders.
Jimy Williams' record: 171-153, 2 seasons with Astros; 866-746, 11 seasons (Blue Jays, Red Sox, Astros).
Postseason: 5-9, 2 seasons with Red Sox.
Team record past five years: 433-377 (.535, ranks 9th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Brandon Backe (trade/Devil Rays), RHP Roger Clemens (FA/Yankees), RHP Brandon Duckworth (trade/Phillies), LHP Andy Pettitte (FA/Yankees).
Losses: IF Geoff Blum (trade/Devil Rays), OF Orlando Merced (FA), RHP Brandon Puffer (FA), LHP Ron Villone (FA), LHP Billy Wagner (trade/Phillies), RHP Rick White (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: KTRH-AM (740) Spanish, TBA
Cable TV: Fox Sports Southwest
Website: astros.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: New Orleans (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Round Rock (Texas)
Class A: Lexington (South Atlantic); Salem (Carolina); Tri-City (New York-Pennsylvania)
Rookie: Greenville (Appalachian)

Minute Maid Park

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 40,950
Ticket information: 713-259-8500

Spring training: Osceola County Stadium (Kissimmee, Fla.)
Ticket information: 407-839-3900

Astros Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 SF	6 SF	7 SF	8	9 MIL	10 MIL
11 MIL	12 STL	13 STL	14 STL	15 MIL	16 MIL	17 MIL
18 MIL	19	20 STL	21 STL	22 STL	23 COL	24 COL
25 COL	26	27 PIT	28 PIT	29 PIT	30 CIN	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 CIN
2 CIN	3 CIN	4 PIT	5 PIT	6 PIT	7 ATL	8 ATL
9 ATL	10	11 FLA	12 FLA	13 FLA	14 NYM	15 NYM
16 NYM	17	18 FLA	19 FLA	20 FLA	21 CIN	22 CIN
23 CIN	24 CIN	25 CHC	26 CHC	27	28 STL	29 STL
30 STL	31 CHC					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 CHC	2 CHC	3	4 STL	5 STL
6 STL	7 SEA	8 SEA	9 SEA	10	11 MIL	12 MIL
13 MIL	14 CHC	15 CHC	16 CHC	17 CHC	18 ANA	19 ANA
20 ANA	21 PIT	22 PIT	23 PIT	24 PIT	25 TEX	26 TEX
27 TEX	28	29 CHC	30 CHC			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 CHC	2 TEX	3 TEX
4 TEX	5 SD	6 SD	7 SD	8 LA	9 LA	10 LA
11 LA	12	13 All-Star	14	15	16 SD	17 SD
18 SD	19 LA	20 LA	21 ARI	22 ARI	23 MIL	24 MIL
25 MIL	26 ARI	27 ARI	28 ARI	29 ARI	30 CIN	31 CIN

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 CIN	2	3 ATL	4 ATL	5 ATL	6 MON	7 MON
8 MON	9	10 NYM	11 NYM	12 NYM	13 MON	14 MON
15 MON	16	17 PHI	18 PHI	19 PHI	20 CHC	21 CHC
22 CHC	23 PHI	24 PHI	25 PHI	26 CHC	27 CHC	28 CHC
29 CHC	30 CIN	31 CIN				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 CIN	2	3 PIT	4 PIT
5 PIT	6 CIN	7 CIN	8 CIN	9 PIT	10 PIT	11 PIT
12 PIT	13	14 STL	15 STL	16 STL	17 MIL	18 MIL
19 MIL	20	21 SF	22 SF	23 SF	24 MIL	25 MIL
26 MIL	27 STL	28 STL	29 STL	30		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 COL	2 COL
3 COL	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Jimy Williams (22). Coaches: Mark Bailey (6), Jose Cruz (25), Burt Hooton (48), Gene Lamont (38), Harry Spilman (8), John Tamargo (30).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	Astacio, Ezequiel	R/R	6-3/155	24	Clearwater	15-5	3.29	25/22	0	147.2	140	60	54	29	83
	Backe, Brandon	R/R	6-0/188	25	Durham	2-1	4.64	16/2	0	33.0	33	21	17	13	27
					Tampa Bay	1-1	5.44	28/0	0	44.2	40	28	27	25	36
	Barrett, Jimmy	R/R	6-2/180	22	Salem	7-10	5.33	26/26	0	138.1	160	87	82	56	75
	Buchholz, Taylor	R/R	6-4/225	22	Reading	9-11	3.55	25/24	0	144.2	136	62	57	33	114
	Clemens, Roger	R/R	6-4/238	41	New York A.L.	17-9	3.91	33/33	0	211.2	199	99	92	58	190
29	Dotel, Octavio	R/R	6-0/200	30	Houston	6-4	2.48	76/0	4	87.0	53	25	24	31	97
	Duckworth, B.	R/R	6-2/195	28	Clearwater	0-0	1.00	2/2	0	9.0	3	1	1	2	11
					Reading	0-0	4.50	1/1	0	2.0	1	1	1	0	2
					Scranton/Wilkes-Barre	2-1	3.38	3/3	0	18.2	21	11	7	4	14
					Philadelphia	4-7	4.94	24/18	0	93.0	98	58	51	44	68
	Gallo, Mike	L/L	6-0/175	26	Round Rock	1-1	1.37	17/0	2	19.2	17	3	3	6	22
					New Orleans	3-0	2.08	16/0	0	17.1	13	4	4	3	11
					Houston	1-0	3.00	32/0	0	30.0	28	10	10	10	16
55	Hernandez, Carlos	B/L	5-10/185	23				Did Not Play							
54	Lidge, Brad	R/R	6-5/210	27	Houston	6-3	3.60	78/0	1	85.0	60	36	34	42	97
58	Miceli, Dan	R/R	6-0/225	33	Colorado	0-2	5.66	14/0	0	20.2	24	13	13	9	18
					Buffalo	0-1	3.00	5/0	0	6.0	7	2	2	1	6
					Cleveland	1-1	1.20	13/0	0	15.0	9	4	2	6	19
					New York A.L.	0-0	5.79	7/0	1	4.2	4	3	3	3	1
					Houston	1-1	2.10	23/0	0	30.0	22	7	7	7	20
52	Miller, Wade	R/R	6-2/210	27	Houston	14-13	4.13	33/33	0	187.1	168	96	86	77	161
	Nieve, Fernando	R/R	6-0/195	21	Lexington	14-9	3.65	28/28	0	150.1	133	69	61	65	144
44	Oswalt, Roy	R/R	6-0/175	26	New Orleans	0-0	3.00	1/1	0	3.0	3	1	1	0	2
					Houston	10-5	2.97	21/21	0	127.1	116	48	42	29	108
	Pettitte, Andy	L/L	6-5/225	31	New York A.L.	21-8	4.02	33/33	0	208.1	227	109	93	50	180
	Qualls, Chad	R/R	6-5/220	25	Round Rock	8-11	3.85	28/28	0	175.1	174	85	75	61	132
	Ramirez, Santiago	R/R	5-11/160	25	New Orleans	4-0	4.26	10/0	0	12.2	7	7	6	9	9
					Round Rock	0-0	0.00	6/1	1	4.2	5	0	0	4	3
51	Redding, Tim	R/R	6-0/195	26	Houston	10-14	3.68	33/32	0	176.0	179	85	72	65	116
62	Robertson, J.	L/L	6-1/200	27	New Orleans	1-0	6.75	1/1	0	6.2	7	5	5	2	6
					Houston	15-9	5.10	32/31	0	160.2	180	98	91	64	99
	Saarloos, Kirk	R/R	6-0/180	24	New Orleans	5-0	3.08	13/7	0	61.1	54	22	21	11	34
					Houston	2-1	4.93	36/4	0	49.1	55	31	27	17	43
20	Stone, Ricky	R/R	6-1/170	28	Houston	6-4	3.69	65/0	1	83.0	76	36	34	31	47

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
11	Ausmus, Brad	R/R	5-11/200	34	Houston	.229	143	450	43	103	12	2	4	47	46	66	5
	Buck, John	R/R	6-3/220	23	New Orleans	.255	78	274	32	70	18	2	2	39	14	53	1
46	Chavez, Raul	R/R	5-11/210	31	New Orleans	.273	101	355	47	97	28	1	6	47	13	43	0
					Houston	.270	19	37	5	10	1	1	1	4	1	6	0
	Gimenez, Hector	S/R	5-10/200	21	Salem	.247	109	381	41	94	17	1	7	54	29	75	2

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
5	Bagwell, Jeff	R/R	6-0/215	35	Houston	.278	160	605	109	168	28	2	39	100	88	119	11
	Bruntlett, Eric	R/R	6-0/200	26	New Orleans	.259	84	324	48	84	10	0	2	27	35	51	9
					Houston	.259	31	54	3	14	3	0	1	4	0	10	0
	Burke, Chris	R/R	5-11/190	24	Round Rock	.301	137	549	88	165	23	8	3	41	57	57	34
14	Ensberg, Morgan	R/R	6-2/220	28	Houston	.291	127	385	69	112	15	1	25	60	48	60	7
28	Everett, Adam	R/R	6-0/160	27	New Orleans	.250	25	100	23	25	6	1	1	9	7	16	3
					Houston	.256	128	387	51	99	18	3	8	51	28	66	8
12	Kent, Jeff	R/R	6-1/215	36	Round Rock	.300	3	10	1	3	0	0	1	6	1	1	0
					Houston	.297	130	505	77	150	39	1	22	93	39	85	6
10	Vizcaino, Jose	B/R	6-1/185	36	New Orleans	.250	2	8	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
					Houston	.249	91	189	14	47	7	3	3	26	8	22	0
	Whiteman, Tommy	R/R	6-3/180	24	Round Rock	.261	133	532	65	139	18	2	13	70	35	102	3

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
17	Berkman, Lance	B/L	6-1/220	28	Houston	.288	153	538	110	155	35	6	25	93	107	108	5
7	Biggio, Craig	R/R	5-11/185	38	Houston	.264	153	628	102	166	44	2	15	62	57	116	8
15	Hidalgo, Richard	R/R	6-3/220	28	Houston	.309	141	514	91	159	43	4	28	88	58	104	9
	Jimerson, Charlton	R/R	6-3/210	24	Salem	.265	97	336	53	89	19	3	12	55	25	109	27
24	Lane, Jason	R/L	6-2/215	27	New Orleans	.298	71	248	37	74	17	0	7	39	30	26	2
					Houston	.296	18	27	5	8	2	0	4	10	0	2	0
	Porter, Colin	L/L	6-2/210	28	New Orleans	.320	102	356	52	114	23	6	11	50	22	80	22
					Houston	.188	24	32	5	6	0	0	0	0	1	17	1
	Taveras, Willy	R/R	6-0/160	22	Kinston	.282	113	397	64	112	9	6	2	35	52	68	57

Spring Training Invitees: LHP Nate Bland, RHP Kirk Bullinger, RHP Jared Fernandez, RHP Tony Fiore,.RHP Miguel Saladin, RHP Rodrigo Rosario, C Dax Norris, C Chris Tremie, IF Jason Alfaro, IF Mike Coolbaugh, IF Phil Hiatt.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS

PROJECTED N.L. WEST FINISH: 4TH

By Ken Gurnick/MLB.com

The best pitching staff in the game could not get the Dodgers into the postseason last year. They could not score and therefore they did not consistently win—an elementary truism the team spent nearly $117 million proving to be accurate.

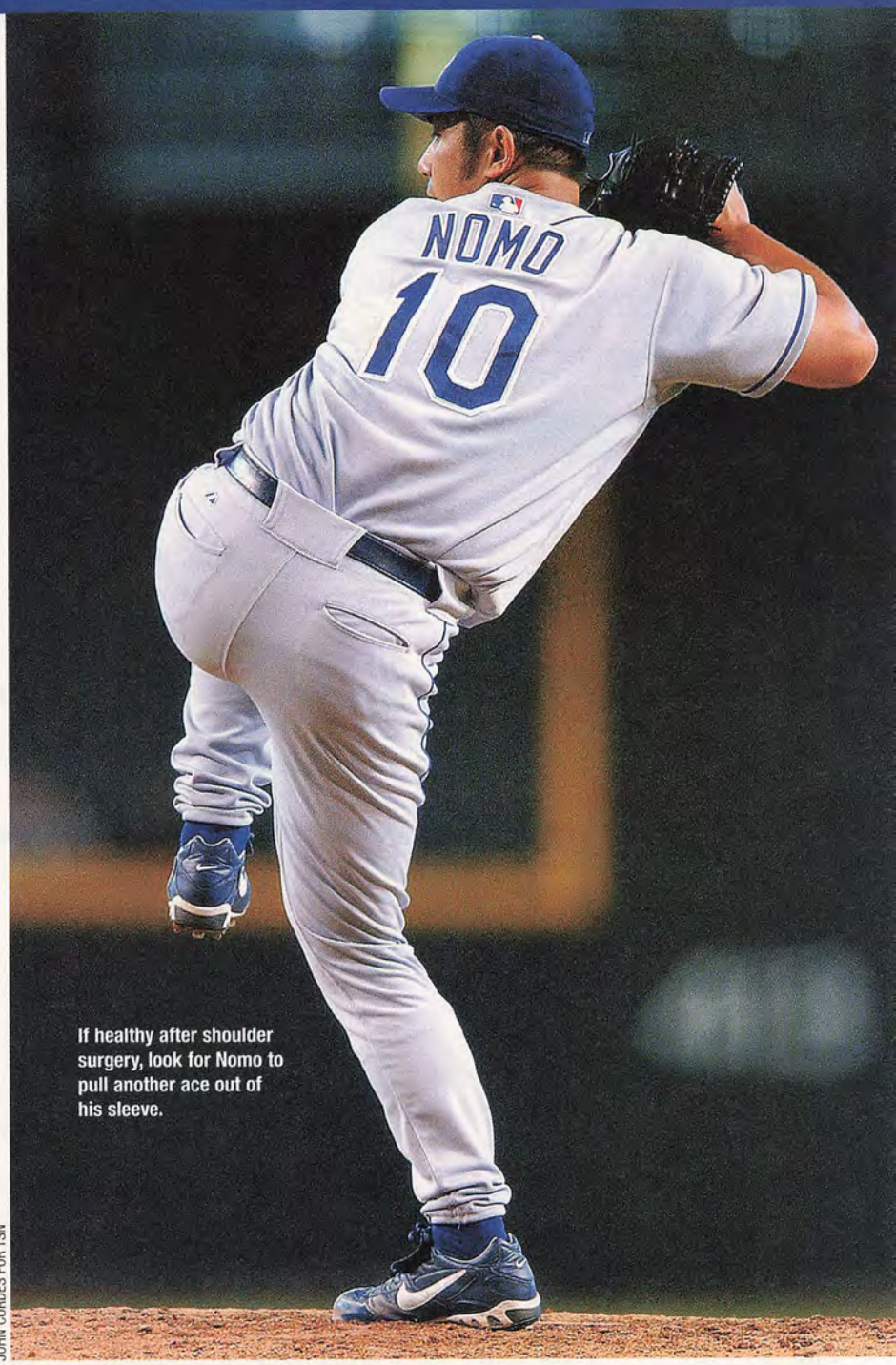
So, the offseason mission was to find roster balance. The first significant winter move was to let expensive setup man Paul Quantrill leave, freeing up money earmarked for a big bat. It signaled the approach general manager Dan Evans would take throughout the offseason.

The franchise is under the microscope, meaning that every move is being examined closely. Ownership may be changing—a sale to real estate developer Frank McCourt is pending—and the Dodgers are operating under more of a mandate to win than any season since World War II. They have not finished first in their division in seven years, matching the franchise's longest first-place drought since 1967 through '73. They have not won a postseason game since 1988 or even appeared in one since 1996.

TSNUMBER

40

Games in which the 2003 Dodgers scored one or zero runs. The team posted a 2-38 record in those games. The offense must improve.



If healthy after shoulder surgery, look for Nomo to pull another ace out of his sleeve.

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

MANAGER A manager's job is always on the line, but Jim Tracy is positioned firmly in the hot seat. He is in the final year of his contract, and the uncertain ownership situation is an extra threat to his security. The fact that the Dodgers slipped seven games in the win-loss column last year does not help.

Tracy's strength is the X's and O's: analyzing matchups, exploiting strengths and weaknesses, preaching the basics, running the game. He tends to stick with veterans to a fault (Andy Ashby, for example), but is not afraid to trust a kid when the tools justify the risk (Cesar Izturis and Paul Lo Duca).

Tracy deserves most credit for managing Eric Gagne into a Cy Young-winning closer without blowing him out. On the other hand, he has overused catcher Lo Duca, leading to second-half offensive collapses.

The biggest knock is that the Dodgers have not made the postseason under his direction, each year failing to mount a stretch run despite being within striking distance. There is only one way he can blunt that criticism. **GRADE: B**

ROTATION Kevin Brown left for greener pastures in the Bronx, but Hideo Nomo has been the team's real ace, anyway. Nomo had shoulder surgery over the winter, however, and the Dodgers can ill afford to see him waver. There are nearly 3,000 innings on that shoulder, and he is coming off his second consecutive 16-win season with the lowest ERA since his rookie campaign.

Lefthander Odalis Perez did not repeat his breakthrough 2002 season, and the uncertainty about which is the real Perez left management willing to trade him over the winter. His ERA went up, his win total went

down. He told the truth about the pathetic offense and he was ostracized in the clubhouse. But he still is lefthanded and still very young, and when his head is in the right place, he can shut down any lineup.

Kazuhisa Ishii remains an enigma. He shook off a frightening skull fracture from 2002 but missed a month with a bad knee. He is still tough to hit and tough to catch. He walks way too many hitters, but with 12 years of experience in Japan and the major leagues, one wonders if the wildness just might be permanent. Which makes him a No. 4 starter and not much more.

In the Brown trade, the team acquired righthander Jeff Weaver from the Yankees. Though Weaver has not posted a winning record in five seasons and his ERA has stayed above 4.00 during that span, the Dodgers believe he can chew up innings and will improve outside the glare of the New York spotlight.

Ashby is gone, but Darren Dreifort returns, as usual, after offseason surgery. The Dodgers also re-signed Wilson Alvarez, who went 6-2 in 12 starts last season, and they believe young righthander Edwin Jackson is ready to step into a starting job. Righthander Joel Hanrahan and lefthander Greg Miller should not be far behind.

Jackson won his debut against Randy Johnson on his 20th birthday, and scouts unanimously agree he is the real deal. Dreifort, however, has not pitched more than 95 innings since 2000. **GRADE: A**

BULLPEN As long as Gagne's arm does not fall off, the Dodgers feel pretty good about their bullpen. It ranked first last season in Rolaids Relief points.

Gagne gets the credit for obvious reasons, but the righthander is not out there alone. The depth is so impressive that management is confident it can withstand the loss of free agent Quantrill. To do that, two things must happen: Righthander Guillermo Mota's improvement must continue, and righthander Paul Shuey's hip must respond to offseason surgery.

Mota's maturity was virtually lost in the noise over Gagne, but his command of a three-pitch repertoire is why Quantrill was unable to extract a multiyear extension. Mota has gone from thrower to pitcher under the tutelage of pitching coach Jim Colborn.

Shuey was erratic last season, but he also was hurt. He missed some time with a knee injury and pitched through a chronic hip problem.

From the left side, the Dodgers will ask Tom Martin to repeat his unexpected contribution. Out of work when spring training started after undergoing his sixth operation in 10 years, Martin was an effective workhorse and was rewarded with a two-year contract. But in case a repeat does not occur, the club is confident that Steve Colyer can be equally effective. He has the arm and mentality that could allow him to someday finish games. **GRADE: A**

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A Gold Glove season from SS **Cesar Izturis**. No shortstop in the league is as good defensively. Izturis can make every play, his arm is legitimate from the hole and his anticipation is impressive.
2. C **Paul Lo Duca** surviving an entire season. He wore down the past two second halves, and manager **Jim Tracy** has learned he must pace Lo Duca better earlier in the year.
3. Some saves from RHP **Guillermo Mota**. If anything happens to closer **Eric Gagne**, Mota appears ready to pitch with games on the line. More than one scout says Mota could close for 28 other clubs.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

All the talk is about the closer (Eric Gagne), but the bullpen is more than one guy. With (Guillermo) Mota, they can even overcome losing (Paul) Quantrill. … There's talk that the two young pitchers they've got coming (Edwin Jackson and Greg Miller) are the best in the minor leagues. … Defensively, the shortstop (Cesar Izturis) is the best I've seen in the league. His offense, well, it was terrible, and now it's below average. But he can run and you can carry a guy like that if you surround him with guys who can hit. … I still like (Paul) Lo Duca. He's a good little player, but he wears down and they've got to get him more rest. Give him credit defensively. You've got to be a gymnast to catch (Kaz) Ishii, and every other pitch from (Hideo) Nomo bounces. … (Adrian) Beltre is the real mystery man. You know he has the ability. But you wait for him to come around and it might never happen. He can't hit a curveball. He has never improved.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Dave Roberts, CF	**5**
A sparkplug if he is healthy.	
2. Paul Lo Duca, C	**4**
Must avoid second-half collapse.	
3. Shawn Green, RF	**6**
Can he turn the power back on?	
4. Robin Ventura, 1B	**4**
Would be better suited in a platoon situation.	
5. Juan Encarnacion, LF	**5**
A versatile outfield upgrade.	
6. Adrian Beltre, 3B	**5**
Free agency awaits this athletic enigma.	
7. Alex Cora, 2B	**4**
A natural at his position.	
8. Cesar Izturis, SS	**6**
No offense, but he can be something special.	
Starters	
1. Hideo Nomo, RH	**6**
Shoulder surgery is a big concern.	
2. Odalis Perez, LH	**6**
Pitching for pride and a big contract.	
3. Kazuhisa Ishii, LH	**6**
Can he harness the talent?	
4. Jeff Weaver, RH	**5**
An escape from New York could do wonders.	
5. Edwin Jackson, RH	**5**
Rookie could be the real deal.	
Closer	
Eric Gagne, RH	**8**
Staying healthy is the key to his success.	
Total	**75**

CATCHING The Dodgers are unusually deep at the position. So deep, that they were willing to include Lo Duca in trade talks over the winter. That does not mean they think Todd Hundley has somehow become a 40-homer switch hitter again. But they do think Hundley can be an effective backup for David Ross, who appears ready to take over for Lo Duca.

Defensively, Ross has a better arm and mechanics than Lo Duca, although he did not always show it in 2003. Offensively, what Ross lacks in average he will make up for in power. Ross' home run ratio was the highest on the club and he showed signs late in the season of better pitch selection and plate discipline.

Lo Duca deserves credit, too. Through hard work he turned himself into an All-Star. He handles a difficult staff, filled with pitchers who have nasty stuff and most of whom do not speak much English. And Lo Duca has honed that part of his game while being asked to contribute more offensively than most catchers. He is a gamer and a clutch hitter when rested, but he had only one home run and 18 RBIs after the All-Star break. **GRADE: C+**

INFIELD Maybe this is the year third baseman Adrian Beltre will fulfill expectations. Of course, this is the fifth year the Dodgers have expressed that optimism. Beltre generally has been disappointing. On average, he will hit .260 with 20 homers and 60 to 80 RBIs. But he will usually cluster the production in a short period and struggle through the rest of the season. Scouts call players like that heartbreakers, because they seem capable of so much more. But he is still young (25) and may deliver.

Beltre is as good as it gets defensively. He has the glove and athleticism of a shortstop and the arm of a right fielder. Maybe the main reason he has not been traded is that his defense is too valuable on a team with a pitching staff that induces a steady diet of

ground balls to the left side.

Complementing Beltre is Izturis, who has been bypassed for Gold Glove consideration only because his offense lacks appeal. The 24-year-old shortstop makes every play appear routine, even the wicked hops. He plays under control but has remarkable anticipation and plenty of arm for plays in the hole. His offense improved in 2003, especially from the left side. But he still has not shown much power or fulfilled expectations as a basestealer.

Dodgers Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.243	.262
Runs	574	747
Hits	1328	1445
Home runs	124	169
Stolen bases	80	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	3.16	4.28
Complete games	3	6
Saves	58	41
Walks	526	549
Strikeouts	1289	1067
Errors	119	106

WINS AND LOSSES

85-77 (2nd in N.L. West), 46-35 at home, 39-42 on road, 16-16 vs. N.L. East, 23-13 vs. N.L. Central, 35-41 vs. N.L. West, 11-7 vs. A.L., 24-16 vs. LH starters, 61-61 vs. RH starters, 83-73 on grass, 2-4 on turf, 26-14 in daytime, 59-63 at night, 26-23 in one-run games, 6-10 in extra-inning games, 0-0-0 in doubleheaders.
Jim Tracy's record: 263-223, 3 seasons with Dodgers.
Postseason: none.
Team record past five years: 426-384 (.526, ranks 10th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: OF Juan Encarnacion (trade/Marlins), OF Bubba Trammell (FA/Yankees), RHP Jeff Weaver (trade/Yankees).
Losses: RHP Andy Ashby (FA), RHP Kevin Brown (trade/Yankees), OF Jeromy Burnitz (FA/Rockies), IF Ron Coomer (FA), OF Rickey Henderson (FA), OF Brian Jordan (FA/Rangers), 1B Fred McGriff (FA), RHP Paul Quantrill (FA/Yankees), 1B/OF Daryle Ward (FA/Pirates).

MEDIA

Radio: KFWB-AM (980); Spanish: KWKW-AM (1330)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net 2
Website: dodgers.mlb.com

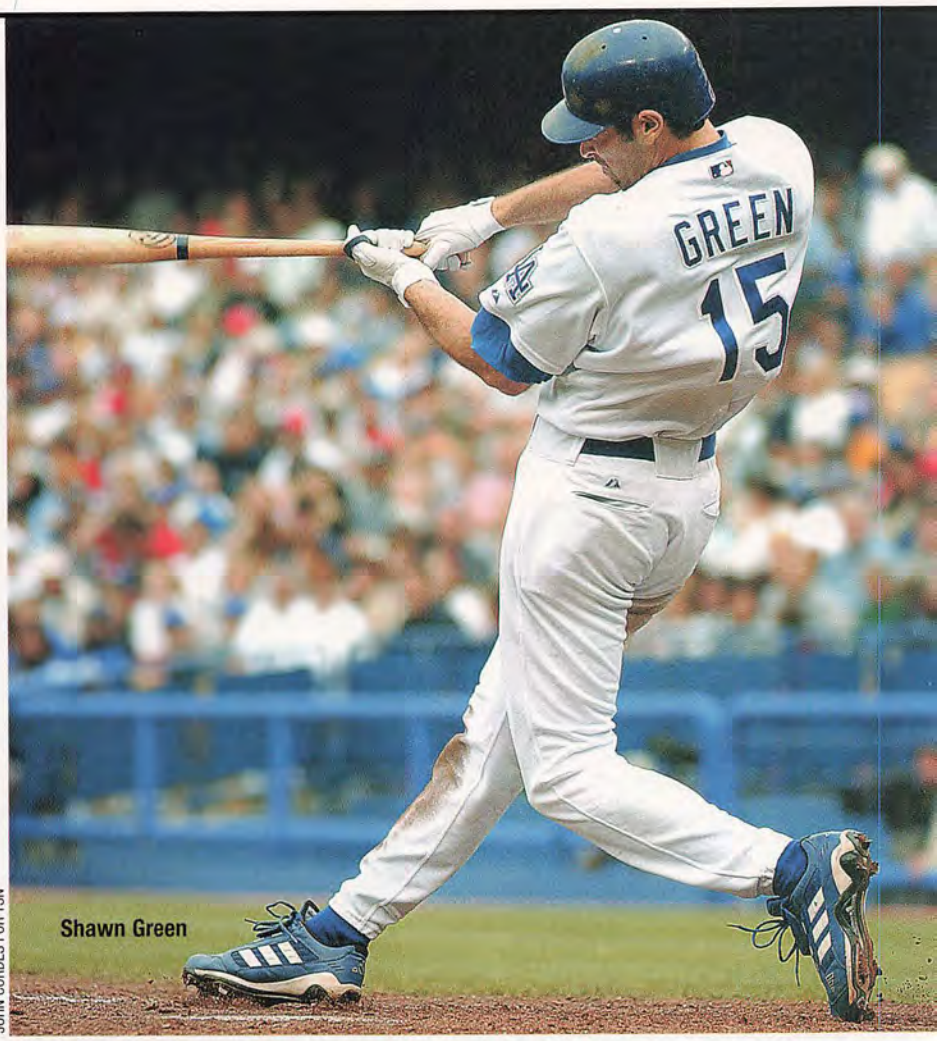
MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Las Vegas (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Jacksonville (Southern)
Class A: South Georgia (South Atlantic), Vero Beach (Florida State)
Rookie: Gulf Coast Dodgers (Gulf Coast), Ogden (Pioneer)

Dodger Stadium

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 56,000
Ticket information: 323-224-1448

Spring training: Holman Stadium (Vero Beach, Fla.)
Ticket information: 772-569-4900



Shawn Green

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

At second base, the Dodgers can go with offense from Jolbert Cabrera or defense from Alex Cora. Cabrera is a utilityman (he started at six positions), so it is unfair to compare him to Cora, a natural shortstop whose arm is better suited to second and who teams with Izturis on highlight-reel defensive plays. But Cabrera had a livelier bat, which translated into increased game time because the offense needed his contributions, especially down the stretch. A more productive lineup could mean more playing time at second for Cora.

Robin Ventura is a stabilizing force at first base and in the clubhouse. **GRADE: C**

OUTFIELD It's all about right fielder Shawn Green. This year, it's all about whether Green's sore shoulder really was the reason for his power loss and, if so, is that shoulder healthy? Green is confident the postseason surgery he had will solve the problem that apparently contributed to his home runs dropping from 42 to 19 and his RBIs falling from 114 to 85.

Defensively, Green takes a lot of heat. He lacks aggressiveness in right, especially on balls hit in front of him, as if his days on Toronto's artificial turf made him gun shy. He is solid, however, when chasing down balls hit to either side, and his arm is strong once he shakes off his annual spring tendinitis. He no longer steals bases, but he is a heads-up base runner.

Center fielder Dave Roberts was unable to duplicate his breakthrough 2002 season because he was unable to stay healthy. With a game reliant on speed, he suffered one of the worst injuries possible—a torn hamstring—and tried to play through it, which compounded his problems on defense. It took nine years until he had the chance to play every day in the major leagues, and now he must show that it was not a fluke. Otherwise, he might have to settle for a platoon role.

Juan Encarnacion, who was plucked from the defending champion Marlins, is not the answer to the Dodgers' offensive woes. But he is a young, athletic blend of power, speed and defense and is versatile enough to play any of the three outfield positions. He probably will open the season in left.

Cabrera, one of the most versatile players in the game, will be available for backup duty when not playing second. Jason Romano could get into that mix, too, as could Wilkin Ruan and Chin-Feng Chen. **GRADE: C-**

Ken Gurnick covers the Dodgers for MLB.com.

Dodgers Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 SD	6 SD	7 SD	8	9 COL	10 COL
11 COL	12	13 SD	14 SD	15 SD	16 SF	17 SF
18 SF	19	20 COL	21 COL	22 COL	23 SF	24 SF
25 SF	26	27 NYM	28 NYM	29 NYM	30 MON	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 MON
2 MON	3	4 FLA	5 FLA	6 FLA	7 PIT	8 PIT
9 PIT	10	11 CHC	12 CHC	13 CHC	14 CIN	15 CIN
16 CIN	17	18 PHI	19 PHI	20 PHI	21 ATL	22 ATL
23 ATL	24	25 MIL	26 MIL	27 MIL	28 ARI	29 ARI
30 ARI	31 MIL					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 MIL	2 MIL	3	4 ARI	5 ARI
6 ARI	7	8 TOR	9 TOR	10 TOR	11 BOS	12 BOS
13 BOS	14	15 BAL	16 BAL	17 BAL	18 NYY	19 NYY
20 NYY	21 SF	22 SF	23 SF	24 SF	25 ANA	26 ANA
27 ANA	28	29 SF	30 SF			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 SF	2 ANA	3 ANA
4 ANA	5 ARI	6 ARI	7 ARI	8 HOU	9 HOU	10 HOU
11 HOU	12	13 All-Star	14	15 ARI	16 ARI	17 ARI
18 ARI	19 HOU	20 HOU	21 COL	22 COL	23 SD	24 SD
25 SD	26 COL	27 COL	28 COL	29 COL	30 SD	31 SD

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 SD	2	3 PIT	4 PIT	5 PIT	6 PHI	7 PHI
8 PHI	9	10 CIN	11 CIN	12 CIN	13 CHC	14 CHC
15 CHC	16 FLA	17 FLA	18 FLA	19 ATL	20 ATL	21 ATL
22 ATL	23 MON	24 MON	25 MON	26 MON	27 NYM	28 NYM
29 NYM	30	31 ARI				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 ARI	2 ARI	3 STL	4 STL
5 STL	6	7 ARI	8 ARI	9 ARI	10 STL	11 STL
12 STL	13 SD	14 SD	15 SD	16 SD	17 COL	18 COL
19 COL	20	21 SD	22 SD	23 SD	24 SF	25 SF
26 SF	27 COL	28 COL	29 COL	30 COL		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 SF	2 SF
3 SF	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Jim Tracy (12). Coaches: Jim Colborn (48), Glenn Hoffman (35), Jim Lett (18), Manny Mota (11), Jim Riggleman (56), John Shelby (31).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
47	Alvarez, Wilson	L/L	6-1/255	34	Las Vegas	5-1	1.34	8/8	0	47.0	36	9	7	6	33
					Los Angeles	6-2	2.37	21/12	1	95.0	80	27	25	23	82
	Brazoban, Yhency	R/R	6-1/170	23	Trenton	2-2	7.81	20/0	3	27.2	33	25	24	14	19
					G.C. Yankees	0-0	6.00	3/0	0	3.0	5	3	2	1	5
					Tampa	0-2	2.83	24/0	15	28.2	27	13	9	12	34
	Brown, Andrew	R/R	6-6/230	23	Jacksonville	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	1
	Colyer, Steve	L/L	6-4/205	25	Las Vegas	2-3	3.21	44/0	23	47.2	44	18	17	22	50
					Los Angeles	0-0	2.75	13/0	0	19.2	22	6	6	9	16
37	Dreifort, Darren	R/R	6-2/211	31	Los Angeles	4-4	4.03	10/10	0	60.1	58	29	27	25	67
	Falkenborg, Brian	R/R	6-6/195	26	Tacoma	4-2	2.94	17/14	0	79.2	66	28	26	26	62
	Frasor, Jason	R/R	5-10/170	26	Vero Beach	1-0	1.85	15/0	6	24.1	16	7	5	4	36
					Jacksonville	1-0	2.95	35/0	17	36.2	33	14	12	14	50
38	Gagne, Eric	R/R	6-2/195	28	Los Angeles	2-3	1.20	77/0	55	82.1	37	12	11	20	137
	Hanrahan, Joel	R/R	6-3/215	22	Las Vegas	1-2	10.08	5/5	0	25.0	36	28	28	20	13
					Jacksonville	10-4	2.43	23/23	0	133.1	117	44	36	53	130
17	Ishii, Kazuhisa	L/L	6-0/200	30	Los Angeles	9-7	3.86	27/27	0	147.0	129	72	63	101	140
	Jackson, Edwin	R/R	6-3/190	20	Jacksonville	7-7	3.70	27/27	0	148.1	121	68	61	53	157
					Los Angeles	2-1	2.45	4/3	0	22.0	17	6	6	11	19
	Kuo, Hong-Chih	L/L	6-4/200	22				Did Not Play							
	Martin, Tom	L/L	6-1/206	33	Los Angeles	1-2	3.53	80/0	0	51.0	36	21	20	24	51
59	Mota, Guillermo	R/R	6-4/205	30	Los Angeles	6-3	1.97	76/0	1	105.0	78	23	23	26	99
10	Nomo, Hideo	R/R	6-2/210	35	Los Angeles	16-13	3.09	33/33	0	218.1	175	82	75	98	177
45	Perez, Odalis	L/L	6-0/150	26	Los Angeles	12-12	4.52	30/30	0	185.1	191	98	93	46	141
	Rodriguez, O.	L/L	5-10/155	23	Jacksonville	1-2	3.75	11/0	0	12.0	10	5	5	7	14
	Sanchez, Duaner	R/R	6-0/180	24	Nashville	4-4	3.69	41/1	1	61.0	63	28	25	27	34
					Pittsburgh	1-0	16.50	6/0	0	6.0	15	11	11	1	3
44	Shuey, Paul	R/R	6-3/215	33	Las Vegas	0-1	27.00	1/1	0	1.0	2	3	3	1	1
					Los Angeles	6-4	3.00	62/0	0	69.0	50	24	23	33	60
	Weaver, Jeff	R/R	6-5/200	27	New York A.L.	7-9	5.99	32/24	0	159.1	211	113	106	47	93

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Hill, Koyie	B/R	6-0/190	25	Jacksonville	.228	25	101	9	23	7	0	0	7	6	19	2
					Las Vegas	.314	85	312	48	98	18	0	3	36	15	39	5
					Los Angeles	.333	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
9	Hundley, Todd	B/R	5-11/200	34	Vero Beach	.083	7	24	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	5	0
					Los Angeles	.182	21	33	2	6	1	0	2	11	8	13	0
16	Lo Duca, Paul	R/R	5-10/185	31	Los Angeles	.273	147	568	64	155	34	2	7	52	44	54	0
40	Ross, Dave	R/R	6-2/205	27	Las Vegas	.221	24	86	12	19	4	0	5	16	11	27	0
					Los Angeles	.258	40	124	19	32	7	0	10	18	13	42	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Aybar, Willy	S/R	6-0/175	21	Vero Beach	.274	119	445	47	122	29	3	11	74	41	70	9
29	Beltre, Adrian	R/R	5-11/170	24	Los Angeles	.240	158	559	50	134	30	2	23	80	37	103	2
13	Cora, Alex	L/R	6-0/180	28	Los Angeles	.249	148	477	39	119	24	3	4	34	16	59	4
3	Izturis, Cesar	B/R	5-9/175	24	Los Angeles	.251	158	558	47	140	21	6	1	40	25	70	10
49	Thurston, Joe	L/R	5-11/175	24	Las Vegas	.290	132	538	77	156	27	6	7	68	31	48	1
					Los Angeles	.200	12	10	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
23	Ventura, Robin	L/R	6-1/190	36	New York N.L.	.251	89	283	31	71	13	0	9	42	40	62	0
					Los Angeles	.220	49	109	11	24	5	1	5	13	18	25	0

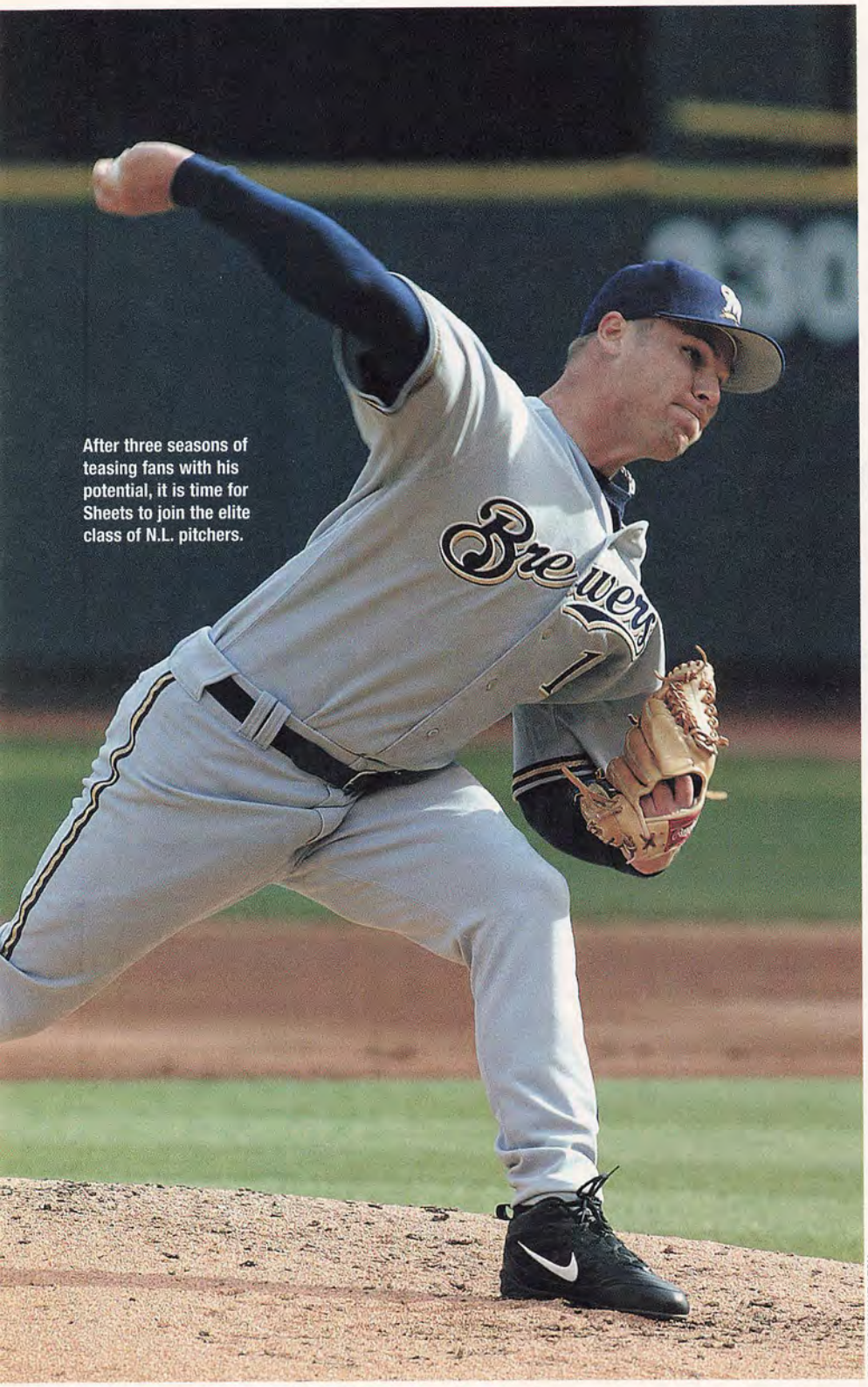
No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Abercrombie, R.	R/R	6-3/210	23	Jacksonville	.261	116	448	59	117	25	7	15	54	16	164	28
6	Cabrera, Jolbert	R/R	6-1/195	31	Los Angeles	.282	128	347	43	98	32	2	6	37	17	62	6
52	Chen, Chin-Feng	R/R	6-1/189	26	Los Angeles	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
					Las Vegas	.281	133	474	84	133	30	5	26	86	59	106	6
	Encarnacion, Juan	R/R	6-3/215	28	Florida	.270	156	601	80	162	37	6	19	94	37	82	19
15	Green, Shawn	L/L	6-4/200	31	Los Angeles	.280	160	611	84	171	49	2	19	85	68	112	6
30	Roberts, Dave	L/L	5-10/180	31	Las Vegas	.000	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
					Ogden	.400	3	10	4	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
					Los Angeles	.250	107	388	56	97	6	5	2	16	43	39	40
	Romano, Jason	R/R	6-0/185	24	Las Vegas	.306	57	216	45	66	18	4	4	23	11	32	10
					Los Angeles	.083	37	36	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	8	2
26	Ruan, Wilkin	R/R	6-0/170	25	Las Vegas	.308	108	403	58	124	6	3	0	40	10	38	41
					Los Angeles	.220	21	41	2	9	2	1	0	2	0	7	1
	Trammell, Bubba	R/R	6-2/220	32	New York A.L.	.200	22	55	4	11	5	0	0	5	6	10	0

Spring Training Invitees: LHP Troy Brohawn, RHP Bill Simas.

MILWAUKEE

PROJECTED N.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 4TH

BREWERS



After three seasons of teasing fans with his potential, it is time for Sheets to join the elite class of N.L. pitchers.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

By Adam McCalvy/MLB.com

Gone are two of the team's most prominent faces, leaving behind a franchise bracing for another season of change and hoping for the best from a rapidly improving farm system.

The Brewers' winter of discontent began in November with the ugly public separation from enigmatic president and CEO Ulice Payne Jr. after a tenure that lasted less than 13 months. Payne criticized the team's board of directors for plans to cut payroll to the $30 million range for as many as three seasons, prompting an outcry from fans and several Wisconsin legislators.

Ten days after Payne and the team parted, the Brewers traded Richie Sexson, their biggest player in stature, ability and popularity. Sexson is due $8.6 million in 2004 and will be a free agent after the season, so general manager Doug Melvin sent him to Arizona in a nine-player trade that brought six fresh faces to Milwaukee.

TSNUMBER

219

Major league-high home run total yielded by the Brewers in 2003. The team is stocking ground-ball pitchers to help reverse that trend.

The decision dealt the team a tough public-relations blow, but it probably was for the best. Milwaukee might have the game's best minor league talent—the system is baseball's most improved over the last five years—and Melvin is trying to prepare for the arrival of prospects. With holes elsewhere, Sexson took up too much of the payroll, and his agent made it clear the two-time All-Star would test the free-agent market in 2004. Instead of losing Sexson and getting nothing but a compensatory draft pick in return, Melvin probably made the best deal possible.

After 11 straight losing seasons and 21 years without a playoff appearance, fans are running out of patience. The team needs more goodwill like the kind it generated before the Payne fiasco, thanks to a 12-win turnaround under rookie manager Ned Yost. It will be up to Yost and a young roster to make it happen.

MANAGER Yost, who broke into the big leagues with the Brewers and played in the 1982 World Series with the team, says this is the only managerial job he ever wanted. He brought an intoxicating optimism to spring training that certainly was tested during a 68-94 season.

Yost, who watched the pitching-heavy Braves win division titles year after year as a 12-year member of Atlanta's coaching staff, admits he made mistakes handling his young Brewers pitchers. Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine can work themselves out of jams; Matt Kinney, Wayne Franklin & Co. often could not. Yost planned to spend the offseason studying videos of his staff.

But Yost succeeded in other areas, such as his decision to bench moody speedster Alex Sanchez in favor of Scott Podsednik, who emerged from nine years of minor league obscurity to become one of the league's top leadoff men. Melvin, following Yost's advice, acquired third baseman Wes Helms, who got better as he adjusted to his first chance at everyday duty. But most important, Yost vastly improved the attitude in a clubhouse that frequently was the site of spats—verbal and physical—during the Brewers' 106-loss debacle of 2002, and he got his team to play harder in close games than it did during the previous season. **GRADE: B**

ROTATION Entering his fourth season and making big bucks for the first time, Ben Sheets will be asked to turn the corner. As a rookie in 2001, he was a 10-game winner before the All-Star break and represented the Brewers in the midsummer classic. But he has been up and down ever since.

His stuff still is electric. A 95-mph-plus fastball and a great curve give the team a chance to win every time he takes the mound, but coaches are working to improve his confidence with his changeup. He has managed to win 11 games in all three of his seasons—not bad, considering the poor support his teammates often provide. But there is a 20-game winner in there … somewhere.

Behind Sheets are a lot of question marks. Will anyone emerge as a solid No. 2? Was Doug Davis, who suited up in six different clubhouses last season but finished strong in Milwaukee, a flash in the pan? Righthander Kinney and lefthander Franklin both showed flashes of talent in their first full seasons as big-league starters, but can they continue to improve? Can lefties Chris Capuano and Jorge De la Rosa, acquired in the Sexson trade, make the leap from prospects to major leaguers? Will the promising arms in the minors avoid injuries like the ones suffered by Mike Jones, Ben Hendrickson, Matt Ford, Nick Neugebauer and others in 2003?

In part because of the Brewers' pitching struggles, Miller Park became the National League's most homer-happy venue last season, with more home runs even than Coors Field. Yost will expect more from his starting staff this year. **GRADE: D**

BULLPEN Mike DeJean, Glendon Rusch, Curtis Leskanic, Valerio De Los Santos and Shane Nance combined to make 187 appearances in 2003. All are gone, leaving the bullpen stocked with new faces. One of the team's first offseason moves was signing Travis Phelps, a hard-throwing setup man who spent 2003 with Atlanta's Class AAA Richmond club.

Highlighting the returning bullpen corps is closer Dan Kolb, who emerged from a bullpen-by-committee situation and notched 21 saves in the second half. Kolb, the hardest thrower on the staff, routinely touched the upper 90s on the radar gun. With a history of arm injuries, staying healthy is the key to his 2004.

A number of other righthanders return. The coaches liked the way sinkerballer Leo Estrella kept the ball in play, but he faded as the year wore on. Mike Crudale finished strong after coming from St. Louis in a trade for DeJean; he has a career 2.09 ERA and has surrendered four home runs in 73⅓ innings. Luis Vizcaino was a workhorse who appeared in 75 games and worked 62 innings. The only returning lefty, John Foster, was up and down from Class AAA Indianapolis last year.

Then there was righthander Brooks Kieschnick, dubbed "the tool shed" because whatever the Brewers needed, he gave them. Kieschnick happily worked mop-up, and his 5.26 ERA in 42 games understated his usefulness. As a lefthanded bat off the bench, Kieschnick hit .300 with seven home runs, including two walkoff blows. **GRADE: C**

CATCHING Chad Moeller laughs when people say he is an "offensive catcher," even though he hit seven home runs in 2003 despite getting only 239 at-bats and rare stretches of everyday duty. Coming through the Twins' minor league chain, Moeller always was labeled a "defensive catcher" who could catch, throw and work a staff but could not be counted on for offense.

The Brewers see him as one of the keys to the Sexson trade and will give him a shot to be Milwaukee's first legitimate No. 1 in years. His competition will come from Gary Bennett, a free-agent signee who hit .238 last season for the San Diego Padres.

Moeller says he is up to the challenge and feels comfortable in Milwaukee. As a sophomore at USC, he roomed with Geoff Jenkins, the Brewers' star left fielder. As a young

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A sub-4.00 ERA for RHP **Ben Sheets**. He has the stuff to be an ace, and coaches think harnessing a changeup will put the young starter over the top. But will the offense give him enough to win?
2. A drop in production from CF **Scott Podsednik**. He never batted higher than .290 in nine minor league seasons, but he hit .314 with 100 runs and 43 steals as a big-league rookie.
3. Prospect call-ups early and often. With plans to keep payroll down for several seasons, such youngsters as SS **J.J. Hardy**, OF **Dave Krynzel** and RHP **Ben Hendrickson** need to start contributing soon.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

Scott Podsednik is a guy I like a lot. He was overlooked by a lot of people, but

he's got good speed, plays hard and has a very good eye and doesn't make many mistakes. He's not going to be a big home run guy, but he should be one of the better center fielders in the league for a while, and there aren't many I would take over him right now. ... Ben Sheets is only going to get better and better. I know some people expected more of him, but you have to remember the guy came up at 22 years old. Sheets, I think, didn't use his curveball as much last year, and hitters knew it and were sitting on his fastball and it cost him. ... Bill Hall needs to learn the strike zone better. He has the tools, and if he can put it together he could be a legitimate leadoff or No. 2 hitter. ... To me, the Brewers' biggest weakness is their rotation. (No. 2 starter) Matt Kinney can pitch, but I look at him more as a No. 4 or probably No. 5 guy.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Scott Podsednik, CF	**6**
Soph aims to prove Dontrelle voters wrong.	
2. Junior Spivey, 2B	**5**
A 2002 All-Star looks to rebound.	
3. Lyle Overbay, 1B	**4**
Can't replace Sexson, but aims for 100 RBIs.	
4. Geoff Jenkins, LF	**6**
Is there enough protection around him?	
5. Ben Grieve, RF	**5**
Can he regain early career form with A's?	
6. Wes Helms, 3B	**5**
Will report with less bulk, focus on OBP.	
7. Craig Counsell, SS	**5**
Local boy coming off two years of injuries.	
8. Chad Moeller, C	**3**
Balanced backstop gets his big break.	
Starters	
1. Ben Sheets, RH	**6**
Will the 20-game winner please stand up?	
2. Doug Davis, LH	**4**
Bounced around last year; hopes to stick.	
3. Matt Kinney, RH	**4**
Sharp slider, but he struggles with runners on.	
4. Wayne Franklin, LH	**3**
Served up a team-record 36 homers in '03.	
5. Chris Capuano, LH	**3**
Must make the leap from prospect to big time.	
Closer	
Dan Kolb, RH	**6**
Caught lightning last year, looks to repeat.	
Total	**65**

Brewers Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.256	.262
Runs	714	747
Hits	1423	1445
Home runs	196	169
Stolen bases	99	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	5.02	4.28
Complete games	5	6
Saves	44	41
Walks	575	549
Strikeouts	1034	1067
Errors	114	106

WINS AND LOSSES

68-94 (6th in N.L. Central), 31-50 at home, 37-44 on road, 14-22 vs. N.L. East, 37-47 vs. N.L. Central, 12-18 vs. N.L. West, 5-7 vs. A.L., 16-22 vs. LH starters, 52-72 vs. RH starters, 66-87 on grass, 2-7 on turf, 22-34 in daytime, 46-60 at night, 24-21 in one-run games, 6-10 in extra-inning games, 1-0-0 in doubleheaders.

Ned Yost's record: 68-94, 1 season with Brewers.

Postseason: none.

Team record past five years: 339-470 (.419, ranks 28th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: C Gary Bennett (FA/Padres), LHP Chris Capuano (trade/Diamondbacks), IF Craig Counsell (trade/Diamondbacks), LHP Jorge De la Rosa (trade/Diamondbacks), OF Ben Grieve (FA/Devil Rays), C Chad Moeller (trade/Diamondbacks), 1B Lyle Overbay (trade/Diamondbacks), RHP Travis Phelps (FA/Rangers), 2B Junior Spivey (trade/Diamondbacks).

Losses: C Henry Blanco (FA/Twins), SS Royce Clayton (FA/Rockies), OF Jason Conti (FA/Rangers), RHP Jayson Durocher (FA/Blue Jays), LHP Shane Nance (trade/Diamondbacks), C Keith Osik (FA), C Eddie Perez (FA/Braves), RHP Ruben Quevedo (FA), RHP Todd Ritchie (FA), LHP Glendon Rusch (FA), 1B Richie Sexson (trade/Diamondbacks), OF Mark Smith (FA/Phillies), OF John Vander Wal (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: WTMJ-AM (620)
Cable TV: Fox Sports North
Website: milwaukeebrewers.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Indianapolis (International)
Class AA: Huntsville (Southern)
Class A: High Desert (California), Beloit (Midwest)
Rookie: Maryvale (Arizona), Helena (Pioneer)

Miller Park

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 41,900
Ticket information: 414-902-4000, 800-933-7890

Spring training: Maryvale Baseball Park (Phoenix, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 800-933-7890

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Dan Kolb

catcher with the Twins, he caught Brewers starter Kinney from Class AA to the big leagues. If he proves to be a solid handler of the still-young staff (Randy Johnson liked him enough to make Moeller his personal catcher), the Sexson trade will look a lot better to skeptical fans. **GRADE: C+**

INFIELD The infield has depth, but it might be short on power and proven talent. Sexson leaves a huge hole at first, where Lyle Overbay is saddled with replacing the big man's Gold Glove-caliber defense and at least part of Sexson's run production. Those who have seen him play—such as Craig Counsell and Moeller—say everyday duty without the threat of being benched after every 0-for-4 is just what the former hot prospect needs. Overbay says he wants to bat .300 and drive in 100 runs.

Third baseman Helms was in Overbay's spot one year ago, when the Brewers rescued him from Atlanta's bench in a winter trade. Facing his first season of everyday duty in front of Yost, his old coach with the Braves, and a new crop of fans, Helms struggled. But the team stuck with him, and in the end, Helms did just what was expected—he batted .261 with 23 home runs and 67 RBIs. With Sexson gone, the club needs Helms' righthanded power even more.

The middle infield is where the club finds its depth. Counsell is excited about playing shortstop for his hometown team, and that allows the Brewers to bring along prospect J.J. Hardy more slowly. Second baseman Junior Spivey also came in the trade and could form the other half of the Brewers' double-play combo. On offense, Spivey will look to bounce back to his solid numbers of 2002.

Hardy, Keith Ginter and Bill Hall provide bench help. Ginter can hit for power and play every position but pitcher. Hall has struggled to move past "prospect" status and still needs work on shortstop defense, but the coaches say he also is athletic enough to make a move to the outfield if necessary. Enrique Cruz, a Rule 5 pick last year, will head back to the minors. **GRADE: C**

OUTFIELD Center fielder Podsednik was one of the league's breakout stories, and Jenkins was one of its comeback kids before missing last September with an injury. If Podsednik can come close to matching his rookie numbers, left fielder Jenkins stays healthy and free-agent right fielder Ben Grieve can return to the offensive form he showed with Oakland three years ago, the outfield could be an impressive group. If those things do not happen, Miller Park could become an offense-free zone.

Podsednik emerged in mid-May and once again will be expected to be the offensive sparkplug. He became the fourth rookie since 1900 to bat better than .300 with 100 runs scored and 40 stolen bases, and he set the table for the run producers.

With apologies to Sheets, Jenkins is the team's only true star. He no longer has Sexson to shoulder the load from reporters and autograph-seekers, not to mention the protection Sexson provided hitting cleanup. Now those duties fall to Jenkins, who hit .283 as a cleanup man in 2003—.312 in the three spot. Jenkins is an underrated defender whose cannon arm prompts discussions of an eventual move to right field.

Grieve was an emerging star in 2000 when he hit 27 homers and drove in 104 runs for the A's. But a three-year falloff, generated in part by injuries, has made him a question mark. He does have the talent and still is only 27 years old. **GRADE: C**

Adam McCalvy covers the Brewers for MLB.com.

Brewers Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 STL	6 STL	7 STL	8 STL	9 HOU	10 HOU
11 HOU	12 SF	13 SF	14 SF	15 HOU	16 HOU	17 HOU
18 HOU	19	20 ARI	21 ARI	22 ARI	23 STL	24 STL
25 STL	26	27 CIN	28 CIN	29	30 PIT	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 PIT
2 PIT	3	4 CIN	5 CIN	6 CIN	7 NYM	8 NYM
9 NYM	10	11 MON	12 MON	13 MON	14 ATL	15 ATL
16 ATL	17	18 * MON	19 * MON	20 * MON	21 PIT	22 PIT
23 PIT	24	25 LA	26 LA	27 LA	28 SD	29 SD
30 SD	31 LA					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 LA	2 LA	3	4 SD	5 SD
6 SD	7	8 ANA	9 ANA	10 ANA	11 HOU	12 HOU
13 HOU	14	15 SEA	16 SEA	17 SEA	18 MIN	19 MIN
20 MIN	21	22 COL	23 COL	24 COL	25 MIN	26 MIN
27 MIN	28	29 COL	30 COL			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 COL	2 PIT	3 PIT
4 PIT	5 CHC	6 CHC	7 CHC	8 CIN	9 CIN	10 CIN
11 CIN	12	13 All-Star	14	15 CHC	16 CHC	17 CHC
18 CHC	19 CIN	20 CIN	21 STL	22 STL	23 HOU	24 HOU
25 HOU	26 CHC	27 CHC	28 CHC	29 CHC	30 PIT	31 PIT

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 PIT	2	3 NYM	4 NYM	5 NYM	6 FLA	7 FLA
8 FLA	9	10 ATL	11 ATL	12 ATL	13 FLA	14 FLA
15 FLA	16	17 CHC	18 CHC	19 CHC	20 PHI	21 PHI
22 PHI	23 CHC	24 CHC	25 CHC	26	27 PHI	28 PHI
29 PHI	30 PIT	31 PIT				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 PIT	2 PIT	3 CIN	4 CIN
5 CIN	6 PIT	7 PIT	8 PIT	9 CIN	10 CIN	11 CIN
12 CIN	13	14 SF	15 SF	16 SF	17 HOU	18 HOU
19 HOU	20 STL	21 STL	22 STL	23 STL	24 HOU	25 HOU
26 HOU	27 ARI	28 ARI	29 ARI	30 STL		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 STL	2 STL
3 STL	4	5	6	7	8	9

* San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Ned Yost (3). Coaches: Bill Castro (35), Rich Dauer (25), Rich Donnelly (45), Mike Maddux (36), Dave Nelson (14), Butch Wynegar (16).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	Adams, Mike	R/R	6-5/190	25	Huntsville	3-7	3.15	45/2	14	74.1	58	30	26	33	83
	Bausher, Tim	R/R	6-5/200	24	Beloit	1-2	3.33	19/0	3	27.0	19	12	10	12	39
	Bennett, Jeff	R/R	6-3/205	23	Altoona	4-4	2.72	33/2	1	59.2	45	22	18	23	62
					Nashville	1-3	6.56	9/5	0	23.1	26	21	17	12	16
	Capuano, Chris	L/L	6-3/210	25	Tucson	9-5	3.34	23/23	0	142.2	133	66	53	43	108
					Arizona	2-4	4.64	9/5	0	33.0	27	19	17	11	23
48	Crudale, Mike	R/R	6-0/220	27	St. Louis	0-1	2.38	13/0	0	11.1	11	5	3	12	6
					Memphis	5-5	5.52	32/0	6	29.1	34	19	18	11	23
					Indianapolis	0-0	0.00	2/0	0	2.0	1	0	0	0	1
					Milwaukee	0-0	2.89	9/0	0	9.1	1	3	3	6	7
49	Davis, Doug	R/L	6-4/190	28	Oklahoma	3-0	3.25	4/4	0	27.2	29	10	10	1	18
					Texas	0-0	12.00	1/1	0	3.0	4	4	4	4	2
					Toronto	4-6	5.00	12/11	0	54.0	70	33	30	26	25
					Huntsville	1-0	3.00	1/1	0	6.0	5	2	2	3	6
					Indianapolis	1-2	4.15	5/5	0	34.2	33	16	16	10	19
					Milwaukee	3-2	2.58	8/8	0	52.1	49	18	15	21	35
	De la Rosa, Jorge	L/L	6-1/190	22	Pawtucket	1-2	3.75	5/5	0	24.0	27	14	10	12	17
					Portland	6-3	2.80	22/20	1	99.2	87	39	31	36	102
	Diggins, Ben	R/R	6-7/230	24	Huntsville	3-2	2.36	8/8	0	45.2	41	18	12	16	32
53	Estrella, Leo	R/R	6-1/185	29	Indianapolis	1-0	1.20	7/0	0	15.0	9	2	2	6	12
					Milwaukee	7-3	4.36	58/0	3	66.0	75	32	32	21	25
52	Ford, Matt	B/L	6-1/170	22	Milwaukee	0-3	4.33	25/4	0	43.2	46	23	21	21	26
26	Franklin, Wayne	L/L	6-2/211	30	Milwaukee	10-13	5.50	36/34	0	194.2	201	129	119	94	116
	Hendrickson, Ben	R/R	6-4/190	23	Huntsville	7-6	3.45	17/16	0	78.1	82	35	30	28	56
55	Kieschnick, Brooks	L/R	6-4/230	31	Indianapolis	1-0	8.56	8/0	0	13.2	17	15	13	10	14
					Milwaukee	1-1	5.26	42/0	0	53.0	66	32	31	13	39
50	Kinney, Matt	R/R	6-5/225	27	Milwaukee	10-13	5.19	33/31	0	190.2	201	121	110	80	152
41	Kolb, Danny	R/R	6-4/215	29	Indianapolis	0-1	1.37	26/0	4	39.1	26	10	6	13	46
					Milwaukee	1-2	1.96	37/0	21	41.1	34	10	9	19	39
	Liriano, Pedro	R/R	6-2/160	23	Huntsville	9-13	3.79	27/26	0	142.2	138	77	60	62	116
31	Martinez, Luis	L/L	6-6/200	24	Huntsville	8-5	2.58	20/20	0	115.0	93	46	33	54	116
					Indianapolis	4-0	0.99	7/7	0	45.2	37	5	5	19	46
					Milwaukee	0-3	9.92	4/4	0	16.1	25	18	18	15	10
32	Neugebauer, Nick	R/R	6-3/235	23				Did Not Play							
33	Obermueller, Wes	R/R	6-2/195	27	Omaha	10-5	4.40	17/17	0	106.1	108	61	52	42	62
					Indianapolis	0-2	4.70	3/3	0	15.1	18	9	8	6	11
					Milwaukee	2-5	5.07	12/11	0	65.2	81	40	37	25	34
	Phelps, Travis	R/R	6-2/166	26	Richmond	9-5	3.47	47/8	4	93.1	77	44	36	38	91
	Saenz, Chris	R/R	6-3/200	23	High Desert	9-9	5.20	26/26	0	128.0	121	80	74	56	136
					Huntsville	0-0	1.50	1/0	0	6.0	4	2	1	3	6
	Sarfate, Dennis	R/R	6-4/210	22	Beloit	12-2	2.84	26/26	0	139.2	114	50	44	66	140
15	Sheets, Ben	R/R	6-1/200	25	Milwaukee	11-13	4.45	34/34	0	220.2	232	122	109	43	157
51	Vizcaino, Luis	R/R	5-11/180	29	Milwaukee	4-3	6.39	75/0	0	62.0	64	45	44	25	61

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Bennett, Gary	R/R	6-0/208	31	San Diego	.238	96	307	26	73	15	0	2	42	24	48	3
	Johnson, Kade	R/R	6-1/205	25	High Desert	.321	32	134	28	43	11	1	9	31	6	28	3
					Huntsville	.192	65	213	26	41	8	1	4	31	21	65	5
	Moeller, Chad	R/R	6-3/215	29	Arizona	.268	78	239	29	64	17	1	7	29	23	59	1

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
30	Counsell, Craig	L/R	6-0/184	33	Tucson	.435	5	23	8	10	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
					Arizona	.234	89	303	40	71	6	3	3	21	41	32	11
6	Ginter, Keith	R/R	5-10/195	27	Milwaukee	.257	127	358	51	92	15	2	14	44	37	87	1
2	Hall, Bill	R/R	6-0/198	24	Indianapolis	.282	89	354	57	100	25	2	5	32	27	79	10
					Milwaukee	.261	52	142	23	37	9	2	5	20	7	28	1
	Hart, Corey	R/R	6-6/200	22	Huntsville	.302	130	493	70	149	40	1	13	94	28	101	25
18	Helms, Wes	R/R	6-4/230	27	Indianapolis	.400	2	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
					Milwaukee	.261	134	476	56	124	21	0	23	67	43	131	0
	Overbay, Lyle	L/L	6-2/222	27	Tucson	.286	35	119	24	34	11	0	4	16	28	19	0
					Arizona	.276	86	254	23	70	20	0	4	28	35	67	1
10	Spivey, Junior	R/R	6-0/201	29	El Paso	.455	4	11	2	5	1	0	0	1	2	1	2
					Tucson	.267	4	15	3	4	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
					Arizona	.255	106	365	52	93	22	2	13	50	33	95	4
23	Weeks, Rickie	R/R	6-0/195	21	Arizona Brewers	.500	1	4	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	2	1
					Beloit	.349	20	63	13	22	8	1	1	16	15	9	2
					Milwaukee	.167	7	12	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	6	0

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
27	Clark, Brady	R/R	6-2/195	30	Indianapolis	.265	9	34	4	9	3	0	0	3	2	6	1
					Milwaukee	.273	128	315	33	86	21	1	6	40	21	40	13
	Grieve, Ben	L/R	6-4/216	27	Tampa Bay	.230	55	165	28	38	7	0	4	17	32	41	0
5	Jenkins, Geoff	L/R	6-1/213	29	Huntsville	.250	6	20	6	5	0	0	2	3	1	7	1
					Milwaukee	.296	124	487	81	144	30	2	28	95	58	120	0
	Krynzel, Dave	L/L	6-1/180	22	Huntsville	.267	124	457	72	122	13	11	2	34	60	119	43
20	Podsednik, Scott	L/L	6-0/170	28	Milwaukee	.314	154	558	100	175	29	8	9	58	56	91	43

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Brian Bowles, RHP Dave Burba, RHP Matt Childers, RHP Adrian Hernandez, RHP Mike Kusiewicz, RHP Victor Santos, C Chris Coste, C Alex Delgado, C Mark Johnson, C John VandenBerg, IF Trent Durrington, IF Matt Erickson, 1B Prince Fielder, SS J.J. Hardy, IF/OF Jeff Liefer, OF Jon Nunnally, OF Chris Magruder.

MONTREAL EXPOS

PROJECTED N.L. EAST FINISH: 5TH

With the departure of Guerrero, second baseman Vidro will have to shoulder even more of an offensive load.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

By Bill Ladson/MLB.com

The 2003 season will mark Year 3 of the Frank Robinson era in Montreal. That may or may not be good news for the Expos.

Throughout Robinson's managerial career, the third year of his tenure with a team has been disappointing. In 1977, his third year with the Indians, he was fired after a 26-31 start. In 1983, Robinson ended his third year with the Giants at 79-83, one year after finishing 87-75. And in 1991, the Orioles cut short his third year with the team by releasing him after a 13-24 start.

Are the Expos doomed to the same fate in 2004? It depends on Robinson's strategy and the type of players he has on the opening day roster. Star outfielder Vladimir Guerrero is gone, the Expos do not have much of a bench and the pitching staff is loaded with uncertainty.

MANAGER Last season, Robinson made some head-scratching decisions. For instance, he consistently used departed righthanded reliever Hector Almonte during a chase for the N.L. wild card, even though Almonte was not much more effective than a batting-practice pitcher. But most baseball people will insist that Robinson had one of his best seasons as a manager.

TSNUMBER

721

The games-missed total by Expos players in 2003. Budget woes make replacing valuable players via trades and/or free agency difficult.

Though the Expos played 103 road games—including their home games in Puerto Rico—and were hit hard by injuries, Robinson refused to let the team go down without a fight. Montreal remained in wild-card contention until early September, and it finished a second consecutive year over .500.

One thing Robinson must do differently is make quick decisions. It took him almost two months of 2003 to decide between Wil Cordero and Jeff Liefer at first base. The hesitation might have cost his team some wins. **GRADE: B**

ROTATION Righthander Livan Hernandez is a dependable ace. His sinker and slow curveball helped him win 15 games and post a 3.20 ERA last season. But the numbers do not tell the whole story of Hernandez's leadership. During pitchers' meetings, he often made suggestions on how to approach certain hitters. He even taught teammates how to throw certain pitches.

Behind Hernandez in the rotation are Tony Armas Jr., Zach Day, Tomo Ohka and Claudio

Vargas. All are question marks.

Armas, known to overpower opponents with his fastball, was off to the best start of his career until a shoulder injury in April shelved him for the rest of the season. He is expected to make a full recovery.

Day missed almost two months with shoulder problems, but he came back in late July and finished with nine wins. He will not blow hitters away with his stuff, and he relies heavily on a sinker to get ground-ball outs. But he must learn to throw strikes consistently. He walked 59 batters in 131⅓ innings. Ohka is another pitcher who has to keep the ball down in order to be successful.

Vargas made a strong impression after joining the team in late April. But he, too, had to be shelved for a few weeks late in the summer because of a shoulder injury. He relies heavily on a sinker but also has an overpowering fastball.

Don't be surprised if righthander T.J. Tucker finds his way into the rotation if someone gets injured. After being recalled from the minors on July 31, he looked impressive in seven starts, going 1-2 with a 4.05 ERA. **GRADE: D**

BULLPEN Rocky Biddle will start the season as the team's closer. The righthander saved 34 games in '03, but he ran out of gas in the second half and posted an ERA of 5.81 after the All-Star break. According to Biddle, the fatigue was a result of preparing his arm as if he were a starter—a role he last played with the White Sox in 2002.

If Biddle is not strong enough to hold on to the closer job, Luis Ayala will be given a shot at it. He spent most of last season battling shoulder problems but managed to win 10 games and post a 2.92 ERA working 71⅓ innings. He also converted 5-of-8 save opportunities.

It is too early to tell if Chad Cordero can be a big-league closer, but it appears he has promise. After being called up in late August, the 21-year-old righthander gave up only two runs in 11 innings.

Lefthanders Randy Choate and Joey Eischen, and righties Dan Smith and Tucker round out the rest of the bullpen. All four can expect to pitch in long and middle relief. **GRADE: C-**

CATCHING The jury is still out on Brian Schneider, who took clear possession of the No. 1 catcher job after Michael Barrett was traded to the Athletics in the offseason.

Schneider showed last season that he is one of the best defensive catchers in baseball, throwing out an N.L.-leading 53.3 percent of would-be basestealers. But he had problems at bat, hitting .230 with nine home runs and 46 RBIs in 335 at-bats. Part of the problem was Schneider rarely had a day off while Barrett was on the disabled list because Robinson had little confidence in backup Edwards Guzman.

The Expos, with no one at the minor league level ready for big-league duty, will be looking for Schneider's backup. General manager Omar Minaya may not address the problem until spring training. **GRADE: C-**

INFIELD This probably is the most settled unit on the team.

Nick Johnson, acquired in the offseason from the Yankees for starter Javier Vazquez, could have a breakout season at first base, provided he stays healthy. The injury-prone Johnson played in just 96 games for New York, mostly because of a stress fracture in his right hand, but he hit .284 with 15 home runs and 47 RBIs. Even more impressive were his 70 walks in 324 at-bats and .422 on-base percentage; that kind of production should help the Expos. Last season, their .326 on-base percentage ranked 12th in the N.L.

Second baseman Jose Vidro had shoulder and knee problems all last season, but he still managed to play 137 games at second and win the Sliver Slugger award. A healthy Vidro means a lot of RBIs and runs scored.

Despite having some back problems, shortstop Orlando Cabrera was the Expos' best player, leading the club in hits (186), runs (95), RBIs (80) and steals (24). He is a master at studying pitchers' moves and often steals bases standing up.

The Expos settled a third base quagmire by signing free agent Tony Batista, a two-time All-Star who has averaged 31 home runs over the last five seasons with Arizona, Toronto and Baltimore. The team used five players at third last season—Fernando Tatis, Jamey Carroll, Guzman, Jose Macias and Todd Zeile—and they combined to hit .230 with nine home runs, 49 RBIs and 102 strikeouts. Now Batista should help ease the run-production pains produced by the free-agent loss of Vladimir Guerrero.

Scott Hodges, a 24-year-old lefthanded hitter with occasional power, will get a good spring look at third with an eye toward the future. But Andy Fox figures to be the top infield reserve. The Rule 5 draft pickup can play all four positions, and he also has played a handful of games in the outfield during his career. Carroll and

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Manager **Frank Robinson** would like OF **Brad Wilkerson** to drive in runs, but look for Wilkerson to be the leadoff hitter and one of the league leaders in runs scored.
2. 1B **Nick Johnson** will have a breakout season. He will hit over .300, lead the league in walks, have his first 100-RBI season and win a Gold Glove.
3. RHP **Rocky Biddle** will lose his closer job to RHP **Luis Ayala** or RHP **Chad Cordero** because of his lack of consistency.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

With Vladimir Guerrero gone, the Expos are going to have a lineup that doesn't have the big bopper, the guy that can break up a game and carry a team for a period of time. That team will not be the same kind of offensive club. They have no one on the club that can replace him. He is in a league of his own. ... I think Jose Vidro is one of the better second basemen in the game. Orlando Cabrera could turn out to be one of the better shortstops in the game. They are a very good double-play combination. They feed off one another. They are both good hustlers. ... The Expos have responded to Frank Robinson. He doesn't browbeat them. He wants them to play the right way. ... I think (closer) Rocky Biddle is an ideal setup man. He'll probably make me look like a liar and save 40 games. Biddle really has a problem getting the ball over. He's not the guy I want out there every time the Expos get a one- or two-run lead.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Brad Wilkerson, CF	**5**
Must lower K's, raise on-base percentage.	
2. Orlando Cabrera, SS	**7**
If back holds up, could make first All-Star team.	
3. Jose Vidro, 2B	**6**
Good health means many RBIs and runs scored.	
4. Tony Batista, 3B	**5**
Must hit for power and drive in plenty of runs.	
5. Carl Everett, RF	**5**
A big bat to help ease pain of losing Guerrero.	
6. Nick Johnson, 1B	**6**
Will add great defense and on-base percentage.	
7. Terrmel Sledge, LF	**5**
Won't have many homers, but should hit .300.	
8. Brian Schneider, C	**4**
Must raise offense to level of strong defense.	
Starters	
1. Livan Hernandez, RH	**7**
Knowledge of game often rubs off on others.	
2. Tony Armas Jr., RH	**5**
Could win 10 to 15 games if healthy.	
3. Zach Day, RH	**5**
Must keep ball down to be successful.	
4. Tomo Ohka, RH	**5**
Key is keeping ball in the strike zone.	
5. Claudio Vargas, RH	**4**
Could be a workhorse if shoulder holds up.	
Closer	
Rocky Biddle, RH	**6**
Must learn to stay strong throughout the season.	
Total	**75**

Expos Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.258	.262
Runs	711	747
Hits	1404	1445
Home runs	144	169
Stolen bases	100	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.01	4.28
Complete games	15	6
Saves	42	41
Walks	463	549
Strikeouts	1028	1067
Errors	102	106

WINS AND LOSSES

83-79 (4th in N.L. East), 52-29 at home, 31-50 on road, 35-41 vs. N.L. East, 20-16 vs. N.L. Central, 19-13 vs. N.L. West, 9-9 vs. A.L., 21-20 vs. LH starters, 62-59 vs. RH starters, 28-41 on grass, 55-38 on turf, 29-27 in daytime, 54-52 at night, 22-24 in one-run games, 9-8 in extra-inning games, 0-3-0 in doubleheaders.

Frank Robinson's record: 166-158, 2 seasons with Expos; 846-909, 13 seasons (Indians, Giants, Orioles, Expos).

Postseason: none.

Team record past five years: 369-441 (.456, ranks 23rd in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: 3B Tony Batista (FA/Orioles), LHP Randy Choate (trade/Yankees), OF Carl Everett (FA/White Sox), RHP Jeremy Fikac (FA/Athletics), IF Andy Fox (Rule 5 draft/Rangers), 1B Nick Johnson (trade/Yankees), OF Juan Rivera (trade/Yankees).

Losses: RHP Hector Almonte (FA), C Michael Barrett (trade/Athletics), 1B Wil Cordero (FA), OF Vladimir Guerrero (FA), RHP Orlando Hernandez (FA), IF/OF Jose Macias (trade/Cubs), RHP Jose Mercedes (FA), RHP Britt Reames (FA), LHP Scott Stewart (trade/Indians), 3B Fernando Tatis (FA), RHP Javier Vazquez (trade/Yankees), 3B Todd Zeile (FA).

MEDIA

French Radio: COOL 98.5 FM
English Radio: THE TEAM 990
Cable TV: RDS (Reseau des sports)
Website: montrealexpos.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Edmonton (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Harrisburg (Eastern)
Class A: Brevard (Florida State), Savannah (South Atlantic), Vermont (New York-Pennsylvania)
Rookie: Gulf Coast Expos (Gulf Coast)

Olympic Stadium

Turf: Artificial
Capacity: 46,500
Ticket information: 800-463-9767

Spring training: Space Coast Stadium (Melbourne, Fla.)
Ticket information: 321-633-8119

Livan Hernandez

ICON SPORTS MEDIA

Henry Mateo also will get shots at reserve jobs. **GRADE: B**

OUTFIELD Here's what is known about this unit: Brad Wilkerson and Carl Everett will start. Here's what is not: where they will play, and who will play with them.

Robinson has always called Wilkerson his "ace in the hole" because he can play several positions, including first base and all the outfield spots. But as strong as Wilkerson is defensively, he needs to step it up on offense. The Expos were looking for him to be a big run producer, but Wilkerson was just ordinary at the plate (.268, 19 homers, 77 RBIs), ranking among the major league leaders only in strike-outs—155, third overall.

Wilkerson was a different hitter, though, when Robinson put him in the leadoff spot in August, batting .299 with a .424 on-base percentage. Wilkerson may fill that spot again.

Everett, signed as a free agent, is expected to pick up some of the slack left by Guerrero's departure. Like Wilkerson, Everett can play all three outfield positions and is considered a good defender. He also is known for his offensive ability. He has a career .350 on-base percentage, and he drove in 92 runs in '03.

The third outfield position probably will be filled by one of the following: Ron Calloway, Endy Chavez, Juan Rivera or Terrmel Sledge.

Rivera, also acquired in the Vazquez deal, appeared in 57 games for the Yankees last season, hitting .266 with seven homers and 26 RBIs. The team may expect power numbers from him, but only once as a professional has he showed that he could hit for power—in 2001, when he hit 28 home runs in the minors.

The Expos want Chavez, who played center field and led off most of last year, to be more patient at the plate. He had an on-base percentage of .294 and struggled to advance runners. Defensively, there is no one on the team who can catch balls in the alleys better than he can. But if he does not improve his offense, he may be no more than a defensive replacement.

Calloway, who got big playing time last season when Guerrero was sidelined by a back injury, has a knack for driving in big runs. But that might not be enough to get him on the field regularly in 2004. If he is going to be an everyday player, he has to learn how to hit lefthanders; they held him to a .169 average in '03.

Sledge, on the other hand, seems to have figured things out at the plate and clearly was the best prospect in the organization in 2003. In 131 minor league games, he hit .324 with 22 home runs and 92 RBIs, showing he could hit for power and drive in runs. Before '03, he never had hit more than 11 homers and his career high in RBIs was 77, both coming at the Class A level in 2000. **Grade: C**

Bill Ladson covers the Expos for MLB.com.

Expos Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 FLA	7 FLA	8 FLA	9 * NYM	10 * NYM
11 * NYM	12	13 * FLA	14 * FLA	15 * FLA	16 PHI	17 PHI
18 PHI	19 NYM	20 NYM	21 NYM	22 NYM	23 PHI	24 PHI
25 PHI	26 SD	27 SD	28 SD	29 SD	30 LA	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 LA
2 LA	3	4 COL	5 COL	6 COL	7 STL	8 STL
9 STL	10	11 MIL	12 MIL	13 MIL	14 ARI	15 ARI
16 ARI	17	18 * MIL	19 * MIL	20 * MIL	21 * SF	22* SF
23 * SF	24 ATL	25 ATL	26 ATL	27	28 CIN	29 CIN
30 CIN	31 ATL					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 ATL	2 ATL	3	4 CIN	5 CIN
6 CIN	7	8 KC	9 KC	10 KC	11 SEA	12 SEA
13 SEA	14	15 MIN	16 MIN	17 MIN	18 CHW	19 CHW
20 CHW	21	22 PHI	23 PHI	24 PHI	25 TOR	26 TOR
27 TOR	28 PHI	29 PHI	30 PHI			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 PHI	2 * TOR	3 * TOR
4 * TOR	5 * ATL	6 * ATL	7 * ATL	8 * PIT	9 * PIT	10 * PIT
11 * PIT	12	13 All-Star	14	15 ATL	16 ATL	17 ATL
18 ATL	19 PIT	20 PIT	21 NYM	22 NYM	23 FLA	24 FLA
25 FLA	26 NYM	27 NYM	28 NYM	29 NYM	30 FLA	31 FLA

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 FLA	2	3 STL	4 STL	5 STL	6 HOU	7 HOU
8 HOU	9	10 ARI	11 ARI	12 ARI	13 HOU	14 HOU
15 HOU	16 SF	17 SF	18 SF	19	20 COL	21 COL
22 COL	23 LA	24 LA	25 LA	26 LA	27 SD	28 SD
29 SD	30 CHC	31 CHC				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 CHC	2	3 ATL	4 ATL
5 ATL	6 CHC	7 CHC	8 CHC	9	10 ATL	11 ATL
12 ATL	13 FLA	14 FLA	15 FLA	16 FLA	17 PHI	18 PHI
19 PHI	20	21 NYM	22 NYM	23 NYM	24 PHI	25 PHI
26 PHI	27 FLA	28 FLA	29 FLA	30		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 NYM	2 NYM
3 NYM	4	5	6	7	8	9

* San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Frank Robinson (20). Coaches: Manny Acta (14), Tom McCraw (17), Jerry Morales (28), Bob Natal (13), Randy St. Claire (49).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
36	Armas, Tony	R/R	6-3/225	25	Montreal	2-1	2.61	5/5	0	31.0	25	9	9	8	23
56	Ayala, Luis	R/R	6-2/170	26	G.C. Expos	0-0	0.00	2/2	0	3.2	2	0	0	2	2
					Montreal	10-3	2.92	65/0	5	71.0	65	27	23	13	46
	Bentz, Chad	R/L	6-2/215	23	Harrisburg	1-4	2.55	52/0	16	84.2	72	31	24	39	56
60	Biddle, Rocky	R/R	6-3/230	27	Montreal	5-8	4.65	73/0	34	71.2	71	43	37	40	54
	Choate, Randy	L/L	6-2/190	28	New York A.L.	0-0	7.36	5/0	0	3.2	7	3	3	1	0
					Columbus	3-5	3.91	54/3	1	71.1	75	35	31	24	56
53	Corcoran, Roy	R/R	5-10/170	23	Brevard County	5-3	1.91	28/0	12	33.0	19	8	7	11	35
					Harrisburg	1-1	0.38	14/0	3	23.2	14	4	1	7	26
					Montreal	0-0	1.23	5/0	0	7.1	7	2	1	3	2
					Edmonton	0-0	0.00	2/0	0	2.0	0	0	0	0	1
62	Cordero, Chad	R/R	6-0/195	22	Brevard County	1-1	2.05	19/0	6	26.1	17	8	6	10	17
					Montreal	1-0	1.64	12/0	1	11.0	4	2	2	3	12
54	Day, Zach	R/R	6-4/210	25	Gulf Coast Expos	0-0	3.86	1/1	0	2.1	3	3	1	1	3
					Brevard County	0-0	1.69	1/1	0	5.1	3	1	1	1	3
					Montreal	9-8	4.18	23/23	0	131.1	132	64	61	59	61
58	Eischen, Joey	L/L	6-0/215	33	Montreal	2-2	3.06	70/0	1	53.0	57	27	18	13	40
61	Hernandez, Livan	R/R	6-2/240	29	Montreal	15-10	3.20	33/33	0	233.1	225	92	83	57	178
	Hill, Shawn	R/R	6-2/185	22	Brevard County	9-4	2.56	22/21	0	126.2	118	47	36	26	66
					Harrisburg	3-1	3.54	4/4	0	20.1	23	12	8	11	12
31	Kim, Sun-Woo	R/R	6-1/185	26	Montreal	0-1	8.36	4/3	0	14.0	24	13	13	8	5
					Edmonton	10-8	5.03	22/22	0	132.1	147	83	74	53	83
24	Ohka, Tomo	R/R	6-1/180	28	Montreal	10-12	4.16	34/34	0	199.0	233	106	92	45	118
43	Smith, Dan	R/R	6-3/225	28	Montreal	2-2	5.26	32/0	0	37.2	42	23	22	18	35
	Song, Seung	R/R	6-1/190	23	Harrisburg	5-2	2.35	13/13	0	72.2	55	26	19	24	44
					Edmonton	7-2	3.79	13/13	0	73.2	69	34	31	33	40
52	Tucker, T.J.	R/R	6-3/265	25	Edmonton	1-0	2.76	3/3	0	16.1	16	5	5	7	6
					Montreal	2-3	4.73	45/7	0	80.0	90	49	42	20	47
33	Vargas, Claudio	R/R	6-3/225	24	Edmonton	0-0	2.79	2/2	0	9.2	7	3	3	5	12
					Harrisburg	1-0	0.75	2/2	0	12.0	7	1	1	3	13
					Montreal	6-8	4.34	23/20	0	114.0	111	59	55	41	62

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
39	Schneider, Brian	L/R	6-1/200	27	Montreal	.230	108	335	34	77	26	1	9	46	37	75	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Batista, Tony	R/R	6-0/208	30	Baltimore	.235	161	631	76	148	20	1	26	99	28	102	4
18	Cabrera, Orlando	R/R	5-9/180	29	Montreal	.297	162	626	95	186	47	2	17	80	52	64	24
2	Carroll, Jamey	R/R	5-9/175	30	Montreal	.260	105	227	31	59	10	1	1	10	19	39	5
	Fox, Andy	L/R	6-4/200	33	Florida	.194	70	108	12	21	5	1	0	8	7	29	1
58	Hodges, Scott	L/R	6-0/190	25	Edmonton	.288	126	482	67	139	21	3	12	66	29	93	5
	Johnson, Nick	L/L	6-3/195	25	Columbus	.500	3	10	1	5	2	0	1	3	2	2	0
					Trenton	.417	4	12	3	5	1	0	0	1	5	0	0
					New York A.L.	.284	96	324	60	92	19	0	14	47	70	57	5
	Labandeira, Josh	R/R	5-7/180	25	Harrisburg	.239	60	238	25	57	18	2	2	26	20	38	0
					Brevard County	.324	62	238	41	77	13	4	0	25	24	35	6
4	Mateo, Henry	B/R	6-0/180	27	Montreal	.240	100	154	29	37	3	1	0	7	11	38	11
3	Vidro, Jose	B/R	5-11/195	29	Montreal	.310	144	509	77	158	36	0	15	65	69	50	3

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
11	Bergeron, Peter	L/R	6-0/190	26	Edmonton	.302	110	388	62	117	19	7	1	32	37	64	12
22	Calloway, Ron	L/L	6-1/210	27	Montreal	.238	126	340	36	81	17	1	9	52	20	80	9
29	Cepicky, Matt	L/R	6-2/225	26	Montreal	.250	5	8	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
					Edmonton	.301	122	442	61	133	23	4	7	64	31	82	7
19	Chavez, Endy	L/L	5-9/170	26	Montreal	.251	141	483	66	121	25	5	5	47	31	59	18
	Church, Ryan	L/L	6-1/190	25	Akron	.261	99	371	47	97	17	3	13	52	32	64	4
	Everett, Carl	B/R	6-0/215	32	Texas	.274	74	270	53	74	13	3	18	51	31	48	4
					Chicago A.L.	.301	73	256	40	77	14	0	10	41	22	36	4
	Pascucci, Val	R/R	6-6/235	25	Edmonton	.281	138	459	80	129	29	1	15	85	101	132	3
	Rivera, Juan	R/R	6-2/170	25	Columbus	.325	79	308	47	100	21	0	7	37	26	37	1
					New York A.L.	.266	57	173	22	46	14	0	7	26	10	27	0
48	Sledge, Terrmel	L/L	6-0/180	27	Edmonton	.324	131	497	95	161	26	9	22	92	61	93	13
	Watson, Brandon	L/R	6-1/170	22	Harrisburg	.319	139	565	86	180	17	6	1	39	38	60	18
6	Wilkerson, Brad	L/L	6-0/205	26	Montreal	.268	146	504	78	135	34	4	19	77	89	155	13

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Jeremy Fikac.

NEW YORK

METS

PROJECTED N.L. EAST FINISH: 4TH

By Kevin T. Czerwinski/MLB.com

The quick fixes appear to be a thing of the past. The big-ticket players, whose potential risk often matches their potential reward, also are history in Queens.

New York general manager Jim Duquette took over on a permanent basis in October, shedding the interim tag that had been attached to his title since Steve Phillips was fired in June. The first thing Duquette did entering the offseason was insure fans he would not fall into the same traps his predecessor did in trying to jump-start the Mets.

So, armed with a more modest payroll (between $90 million and $100 million), Duquette gambled, but on a much smaller scale. He made moves that were somewhat splashy—like the signing of star Japanese shortstop Kaz Matsui—and others that were fundamentally sound—like signing center fielder Mike Cameron. In both those cases, he helped the team without losing draft picks, a problem that has plagued the Mets in recent seasons.

Duquette wants to build his team around speed and defense. He is determined to use cavernous Shea Stadium to his advantage, a concept Phillips never seemed to grasp. Whether that plan will be enough to lift the Mets out of the basement in the tough National League East remains to be seen.

One thing is certain, though: Duquette has the franchise headed in the right direction, rebuilding the farm system while surrounding himself with knowledgeable baseball people. The Mets will not win the division in 2004, but they will be better than the team that took the field the previous two seasons.

TSNUMBER

.980

The Mets' fielding percentage tied for second worst in the N.L. Catchers, shortstops and second basemen combined for 50 errors.

After a disappointing 2003, Piazza will be out to prove that his run-production and catching skills have not diminished.

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

MANAGER It was clear by the end of last season that Art Howe was worn down. His first season in New York proved to be much more than the former small-market skipper expected, though he would not readily admit it. Much of what took a toll on Howe had little to do with what happened on the field, though.

Sure, the Mets' last-place finish and the rash of injuries that buried the club early would have been enough to age any skipper. What seemed to affect Howe the most, however, was the constant media blitz.

Howe was not management's first choice to replace Bobby Valentine. The many Valentine apologists in the New York media hammered that fact home at every opportunity, often taking Howe to task for his laid-back style and easygoing approach to running the team.

The skipper did not do himself any favors in May when he blurted

out on a live television interview that he intended to get Mike Piazza some work at first base before actually talking to the All-Star catcher about a switch. The situation turned into a public-relations nightmare and became a seasonlong story, even when Piazza was sidelined for three months with a severe groin injury.

That the likes of Roberto Alomar and Armando Benitez did not perform for Howe should not be held against him, though, because their uninspired play in 2002 was part of the reason Valentine got fired.

Considering the second-rate talent he had to work with for much of the season, Howe held his own. The team actually started playing well in August when shortstop Jose Reyes got hot. But after Reyes suffered a season-ending sprained ankle at the end of the month, all life was sucked out of the club. Howe had to fill the lineup with minor leaguers for much of September, none of whom played well. **GRADE: C+**

ROTATION The starters were not the primary problem in 2003. They were better than average for much of the season—and at times exceptional.

The top of the rotation features lefthanders Al Leiter and Tom Glavine. Leiter pitched like the de facto ace he has been since arriving in New York, while Glavine struggled in his first season with the Mets.

Howe will be counting on Leiter to display the form he showed after the All-Star break, when he won seven games and posted a 2.15 ERA. Leiter improved his conditioning while on the disabled list with an inflamed right knee, and that helped him improve his mechanics.

For the the first time in his career, Glavine had a season interrupted by injuries. But an ineffective bullpen and shoddy defense had as much to do with his troubles as anything. The club is hoping to see more of the pitcher who was 3-1 with a 1.95 ERA in August.

Steve Trachsel and Jae Weong Seo fill out the middle of the rotation. Trachsel, who features a hard sinker and splitter, led the staff last season with a career-high 16 wins, and he has been New York's most effective starter dating to the middle of 2001.

Seo was surprisingly effective as a rookie despite a 9-12 record. He finished strong after suffering a slump and a finger injury at midseason. Seo has a low-90s fastball that he must spot on the corners, and his changeup and curve are considerably slower. He should benefit the most from the arrival of pitching coach Rick Peterson, who replaces the fired Vern Ruhle. Peterson, former guru to the A's young stars, rejoins Howe to give New York's staff the gentle hand it has needed for some time.

Duquette still was shopping for a low-priced veteran starter into January, but he may have to fill the spot from within. Candidates include Aaron Heilman and Jeremy Griffiths, neither of whom pitched consistently as rookies last season, and minor league prospect Tyler Yates. Neither Heilman nor Griffiths throws hard, and both struggled with location during their limited time in the big leagues. **GRADE: B-**

BULLPEN Braden Looper will be asked to step in and provide some sense of security at the end of games. The former Marlins closer, who saved 28 games in 2003, will have something to prove after losing his job late last season to Ugueth Urbina.

The signing of Looper allows lefthander Mike Stanton to return to setup and situational duties after a 2003 season filled with injuries. David Weathers also returns, but he must be used less so he does not wear down the way he did last season.

Former closer John Franco was ineffective after returning from elbow surgery and likely will be asked to fill a middle reliever role. Scott Strickland, who underwent the same surgery as Franco, may not be back until June. **GRADE: C**

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A 15-win season from LHP **Tom Glavine**. His 9-14 record and 4.52 ERA in 2003 were deceptive. The bullpen blew at least five wins and shoddy defense contributed to at least three losses.
2. A big season for 2B **Jose Reyes**. He has proved capable of playing every day in the major leagues. Expect him to cut down on his strikeouts and show more patience at the plate.
3. A healthy return for LF **Cliff Floyd**. He played much of last season with heel and knee injuries, yet totaled 68 RBIs in 108 games. Last August's ankle surgery should help him play 140 to 150 games.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

They need so much help that it's hard to pick a starting point. If (Tom) Glavine and (Al) Leiter don't come back strong, I don't know what they've got. I don't know where they go with the pitching staff. ... It has always been my philosophy to build on pitching and defense, so they're on the right track there. ... If (G.M.) Jim (Duquette) is going to last four or five years, then he has to work on the farm system. ... I would think they're going to model their club after Seattle and sacrifice some power for guys who are more singles and doubles hitters. They are more station-to-station. ... They just have too many outs in their lineup. Jason Phillips is a nice player, but are you going to win a National League pennant with him at first base every day? They have contact pitchers and without good defense behind them, they're in trouble. And I don't think (Mike) Piazza moving to first base should be a big deal, but apparently it is.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Kaz Matsui, SS	**6**
Dynamic hitter in Japan.	
2. Jose Reyes, 2B	**5**
Will benefit from Matsui's presence.	
3. Cliff Floyd, LF	**6**
If the top two get on, he'll drive in 120 runs.	
4. Mike Piazza, C	**5**
Needs to prove he is not on the decline.	
5. Jason Phillips, 1B	**5**
Good contact hitter; great in clutch situations.	
6. Ty Wigginton, 3B	**4**
More patience will add 20 points to his average.	
7. Mike Cameron, CF	**5**
Strikeouts and new home will hurt his average.	
8. Roger Cedeno, RF	**4**
Makes a lot of mental mistakes on the bases.	
Starters	
1. Tom Glavine, LH	**6**
Still has the stuff to be a 20-game winner.	
2. Al Leiter, LH	**5**
Can he regain his post-All-Star break form?	
3. Steve Trachsel, RH	**5**
One of the league's most underrated pitchers.	
4. Jae Weong Seo, RH	**3**
Has fantastic control and works fast.	
5. Aaron Heilman, RH	**4**
Struggled with command as a rookie.	
Closer	
Mike Stanton, LH	**4**
For now, he is all this team has.	
Total	**67**

CATCHING Piazza alternately leaked reports in the offseason that he wanted to be traded and that he wanted to finish out his contract in New York. His contract and veto power over trades make him virtually impossible to move, so expect him to catch the majority of games this season.

He is still a solid hitter, but he no longer is feared. At least that's how it appeared after he came back from a severe groin injury that sidelined him from mid-May to mid-August. Piazza looked lost at the plate at season's end, and Howe has been adamant that he will play some first base in 2004.

Piazza has been reluctant to move, partly out of pride and partly because he wants to break Carlton Fisk's all-time record for homers by a catcher. He is four away.

Jason Phillips enjoyed a solid rookie season and is expected to rotate with Piazza between first and catcher. Vance Wilson is a solid backup who, while Piazza was injured, showed he is capable of starting.

Wilson is excellent defensively and a vocal clubhouse leader. **GRADE: B**

INFIELD Matsui is expected to solidify the middle, but how well he adapts to life in the majors will go a long way toward determining New York's success in 2004. Matsui's glove is, by all accounts, top-notch. But he strikes out a lot and his stolen base totals have steadily decreased. He hit 33 homers last season for Seibu but is unlikely to come close to matching that figure for the Mets.

Matsui's arrival forces Reyes to move to second base. Reyes was one of the league's most dynamic players after being recalled from Class AAA last season, batting .307 with 32 RBIs and 13 stolen bases in 69 games. The ankle injury still was hampering him into January, cutting into his winter league season. Of greater concern is how well he handles the position change. Reyes said all the right things when the club signed Matsui and he never publicly questioned the move.

If he is as mature as he appeared when the Matsui deal was being finalized, then he is an even bigger asset to the club than originally believed. If he pouts or has trouble adjusting to the new position, the Mets will have a problem.

Ty Wigginton will be back at third after a strong rookie season. He was a workhorse who set several club rookie records, including extra-base hits. His .255 batting average was adequate, as was his glove. He committed 16 errors but showed marked improvement over the course of the season.

With Mo Vaughn figuring to sit out the season with a chronic knee injury, the starting first base job will be handled by Phillips, pending the situation with Piazza. Phillips is a good young hitter (.298, 11 home runs last season) and needs to play somewhere. The Mets know they are walking a fine line: Anything that hinders Piazza's move or cuts into Phillips' playing time will hurt the club. **GRADE: C+**

Jose Reyes

DAVID DUROCHIK FOR TSN

OUTFIELD Cameron will become the Mets' first full-time center fielder since Jay Payton in 2000. His defense is good enough to save runs and it will help the pitching staff immensely.

The only problem Cameron could encounter is the swirling winds that blow through Shea Stadium. Many outfielders come into Queens and initially struggle with the breezes off Flushing Bay.

Cliff Floyd will be back in left field after missing the final month and a half of 2003 because of surgery on his chronically sore Achilles' tendon. If Floyd comes back healthy and offers protection for Piazza in the lineup, that would be a huge boost, especially if Reyes and Matsui are getting on base at the top of the order.

Floyd is not going to hit 30 home runs or bat .330. But he has a good chance to drive in 100-plus runs if he remains healthy.

The Mets still need a power bat in right field. Roger Cedeno, who held the job for most of last season, was a poor defensive player, angering teammates and fans. If Duquette can make a deal for an outfielder, Cedeno will be on the bench or in another uniform come opening day. **GRADE: C+**

Kevin T. Czerwinski covers the Mets for MLB.com.

Mets Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.247	.262
Runs	642	747
Hits	1317	1445
Home runs	124	169
Stolen bases	70	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.48	4.28
Complete games	3	6
Saves	38	41
Walks	576	549
Strikeouts	907	1067
Errors	118	106

WINS AND LOSSES

66-95 (5th in N.L. East), 34-46 at home, 32-49 on road, 27-49 vs. N.L. East, 17-22 vs. N.L. Central, 17-14 vs. N.L. West, 5-10 vs. A.L., 18-26 vs. LH starters, 48-69 vs. RH starters, 61-82 on grass, 5-13 on turf, 21-30 in daytime, 45-65 at night, 15-27 in one-run games, 1-6 in extra-inning games, 0-3-0 in doubleheaders.
Art Howe's record: 66-95, 1 season with Mets; 1,058-1,046, 13 seasons (Astros, Athletics, Mets).
Postseason: 6-9, 3 seasons with Athletics.
Team record past five years: 414-395 (.512, ranks 13th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: OF Mike Cameron (FA/Mariners), RHP Braden Looper (FA/Marlins), SS Kazuo Matsui (FA/Japan).
Losses: RHP Pedro Astacio (FA), IF Jay Bell (retired), 1B Tony Clark (FA/Yankees).

MEDIA

Radio: WFAN-AM (660)
Cable TV: Fox Sports New York; MSG Network
Website: mets.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Norfolk (International)
Class AA: Binghamton (Eastern)
Class A: Brooklyn (New York-Pennsylvania), Capital City (South Atlantic), St. Lucie (Florida State)
Rookie: Kingsport (Appalachian), Mets (Gulf Coast)

Shea Stadium

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 57,393
Ticket information: 718-507-8499

Spring training: TBA (Port St. Lucie, Fla.)
Ticket information: 772-871-2115

Mets Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 ATL	7 ATL	8 ATL	9 MON *	10 MON *
11 MON *	12 ATL	13	14 ATL	15 ATL	16 PIT	17 PIT
18 PIT	19 MON	20 MON	21 MON	22 MON	23 CHC	24 CHC
25 CHC	26	27 LA	28 LA	29 LA	30 SD	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 SD
2 SD	3	4 SF	5 SF	6 SF	7 MIL	8 MIL
9 MIL	10 ARI	11 ARI	12 ARI	13 ARI	14 HOU	15 HOU
16 HOU	17	18 STL	19 STL	20 STL	21 COL	22 COL
23 COL	24	25 PHI	26 PHI	27	28 FLA	29 FLA
30 FLA	31 PHI					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 PHI	2 PHI	3 FLA	4 FLA	5 FLA
6 FLA	7	8 MIN	9 MIN	10 MIN	11 KC	12 KC
13 KC	14	15 CLE	16 CLE	17 CLE	18 DET	19 DET
20 DET	21	22 CIN	23 CIN	24 CIN	25 NYY	26 NYY
27 NYY	28	29 CIN	30 CIN			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 CIN	2 NYY	3 NYY
4 NYY	5 PHI	6 PHI	7 PHI	8 PHI	9 FLA	10 FLA
11 FLA	12	13 All-Star	14	15 PHI	16 PHI	17 PHI
18 PHI	19 FLA	20 FLA	21 MON	22 MON	23 ATL	24 ATL
25 ATL	26 MON	27 MON	28 MON	29 MON	30 ATL	31 ATL

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 ATL	2	3 MIL	4 MIL	5 MIL	6 STL	7 STL
8 STL	9	10 HOU	11 HOU	12 HOU	13 ARI	14 ARI
15 ARI	16	17 COL	18 COL	19 COL	20 SF	21 SF
22 SF	23 SD	24 SD	25 SD	26 SD	27 LA	28 LA
29 LA	30 FLA	31 FLA				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 FLA	2 FLA	3 PHI	4 PHI
5 PHI	6	7 FLA	8 FLA	9 FLA	10 PHI	11 PHI
12 PHI	13 ATL	14 ATL	15 ATL	16 ATL	17 PIT	18 PIT
19 PIT	20	21 MON	22 MON	23 MON	24 CHC	25 CHC
26 CHC	27 ATL	28 ATL	29 ATL	30		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 MON	2 MON
3 MON	4	5	6	7	8	9

* San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Art Howe (18). Coaches: Don Baylor, Bobby Floyd, Matt Galante (4), Rick Peterson, Gary Pettis (2), Nelson Silverio, Denny Walling (15).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
17	Anderson, Jason	L/R	6-0/170	24	Columbus	0-0	0.00	6/0	3	7.2	3	0	0	2	13
					New York A.L.	1-0	4.79	22/0	0	20.2	23	13	11	14	9
					Norfolk	1-3	2.70	10/5	4	23.1	18	8	7	7	9
					New York N.L.	0-0	5.06	6/0	0	10.2	10	6	6	5	7
	Bevis, P.J.	R/R	6-3/175	23	Binghamton	4-7	4.18	46/0	6	71.0	55	37	33	30	100
					Norfolk	1-0	0.00	4/0	0	8.1	2	0	0	2	8
43	Cerda, Jaime	L/L	6-0/175	25	Norfolk	3-0	1.67	22/0	0	32.1	29	7	6	10	35
					New York N.L.	1-1	5.85	27/0	0	32.1	32	21	21	20	19
	Diaz, Joselo	R/R	6-0/175	23	Vero Beach	5-2	3.50	15/11	1	61.2	39	25	24	48	69
					Jacksonville	1-0	0.00	5/0	0	7.2	5	1	0	3	7
					St. Lucie	2-2	2.97	11/2	1	30.1	16	12	10	25	41
45	Franco, John	L/L	5-10/185	43	St. Lucie	0-1	6.23	4/3	0	4.1	6	3	3	1	5
					Norfolk	0-0	0.00	2/0	0	1.2	1	0	0	1	2
					New York N.L.	0-3	2.62	38/0	2	34.1	35	11	10	13	16
47	Glavine, Tom	L/L	6-0/185	38	New York N.L.	9-14	4.52	32/32	0	183.1	205	94	92	66	82
46	Griffiths, Jeremy	R/R	6-6/240	26	Norfolk	7-6	2.74	21/19	1	115.0	94	43	35	26	78
					New York N.L.	1-4	7.02	9/6	0	41.0	57	34	32	19	25
48	Heilman, Aaron	R/R	6-5/220	25	Norfolk	6-4	3.24	16/16	0	94.1	99	37	34	32	71
					New York N.L.	2-7	6.75	14/13	0	65.1	79	53	49	41	51
	Keppel, Bob	R/R	6-5/205	21	Brooklyn	2-0	2.51	3/3	0	14.1	10	5	4	2	13
					Binghamton	7-4	3.04	18/17	0	94.2	92	36	32	27	46
22	Leiter, Al	L/L	6-3/220	38	New York N.L.	15-9	3.99	30/30	0	180.2	176	83	80	94	139
46	Looper, Braden	R/R	6-3/220	29	Florida	6-4	3.68	74/0	28	80.2	82	34	33	29	56
	Moreno, Orber	R/R	6-3/200	26	Binghamton	2-0	1.69	4/0	1	5.1	4	1	1	1	7
					Norfolk	5-1	1.90	38/0	12	52.0	36	11	11	17	58
					New York N.L.	0-0	7.88	7/0	0	8.0	10	7	7	3	5
36	Roberts, Grant	R/R	6-3/205	26	St. Lucie	1-0	0.00	5/2	0	9.0	5	4	0	3	5
					Norfolk	0-0	3.52	8/0	0	7.2	7	3	3	5	6
					New York N.L.	0-3	3.79	18/0	1	19.0	19	9	8	3	10
40	Seo, Jae Weong	R/R	6-1/210	26	New York N.L.	9-12	3.82	32/31	0	188.1	193	94	80	46	110
	Stanton, Mike	L/L	6-1/215	36	Binghamton	0-1	9.00	1/1	0	1.0	6	3	1	0	1
					Brooklyn	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	2.0	1	0	0	0	1
					New York N.L.	2-7	4.57	50/0	5	45.1	37	25	23	19	34
38	Strange, Pat	R/R	6-5/243	23	New York	0-0	11.00	6/0	0	9.0	13	11	11	11	5
					Norfolk	5-4	5.74	31/10	1	89.1	111	61	57	44	64
28	Strickland, Scott	R/R	5-11/180	27	New York N.L.	0-2	2.25	19/0	0	20.0	16	6	5	10	16
29	Trachsel, Steve	R/R	6-4/205	33	New York N.L.	16-10	3.78	33/33	0	204.2	204	90	86	65	111
35	Weathers, Dave	R/R	6-3/230	34	New York N.L.	1-6	3.08	77/0	7	87.2	87	33	30	40	75
39	Wheeler, Dan	R/R	6-3/222	26	Norfolk	4-2	3.94	22/5	4	45.2	48	20	20	16	44
					New York N.L.	1-3	3.71	35/0	2	51.0	49	23	21	17	35
	Yates, Tyler	R/R	6-4/220	26	St. Lucie	1-2	4.31	14/11	0	48.0	41	28	23	24	49
					Binghamton	1-2	4.35	8/8	0	39.1	33	21	19	17	36
					Norfolk	1-2	4.05	4/4	0	20.0	22	9	9	9	15

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Jacobs, Mike	L/R	6-2/200	23	Binghamton	.329	119	407	56	134	36	1	17	81	28	87	0
31	Piazza, Mike	R/R	6-3/215	35	Norfolk	.176	5	17	2	3	0	0	1	2	1	3	0
					New York N.L.	.286	68	234	37	67	13	0	11	34	35	40	0
3	Wilson, Vance	R/R	5-11/190	31	New York N.L.	.243	96	268	28	65	9	1	8	39	15	56	1

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Baldiris, Aaron	R/R	6-2/195	21	Capital City	.313	107	393	55	123	19	4	6	68	51	55	13
					Brooklyn	.364	26	88	20	32	5	2	0	18	14	13	2
	Brazell, Craig	L/R	6-3/210	23	Binghamton	.292	111	432	58	126	23	2	17	76	23	97	2
					Norfolk	.261	12	46	4	12	3	0	0	1	1	8	1
12	Garcia, Danny	R/R	6-1/174	23	Binghamton	.333	32	117	22	39	12	1	3	22	10	20	2
					Norfolk	.263	101	388	45	102	23	3	4	54	22	60	11
					New York N.L.	.214	19	56	5	12	2	0	2	6	2	11	0
25	Matsui, Kazuo	S/R	5-9/180	28	Played in Japan												
11	McEwing, Joe	R/R	5-11/170	31	Norfolk	.316	5	19	3	6	0	0	1	3	2	2	3
					New York N.L.	.241	119	278	31	67	11	0	1	16	25	57	3
23	Phillips, Jason	R/R	6-1/177	27	Norfolk	.346	22	78	13	27	5	0	4	20	11	9	0
					New York N.L.	.298	119	403	45	120	25	0	11	58	39	50	0
7	Reyes, Jose	B/R	6-0/160	20	Norfolk	.269	42	160	28	43	6	4	0	13	15	25	26
					New York N.L.	.307	69	274	47	84	12	4	5	32	13	36	13
42	Vaughn, Mo	L/R	6-1/275	36	New York N.L.	.190	27	79	10	15	2	0	3	15	14	22	0
9	Wigginton, Ty	R/R	6-0/200	26	New York N.L.	.255	156	573	73	146	36	6	11	71	46	124	12

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Cameron, Mike	R/R	6-2/200	31	Seattle	.253	147	534	74	135	31	5	18	76	70	137	17
19	Cedeno, Roger	B/R	6-1/205	29	New York N.L.	.267	148	484	70	129	25	4	7	37	38	86	14
61	Duncan, Jeff	L/L	6-2/188	25	Binghamton	.288	76	278	49	80	11	5	4	23	36	59	24
					Norfolk	.267	4	15	2	4	1	0	2	4	1	7	1
					New York N.L.	.194	56	139	13	27	0	2	1	10	17	41	4
30	Floyd, Cliff	L/R	6-4/230	31	New York N.L.	.290	108	365	57	106	25	2	18	68	51	66	3
21	Gonzalez, Raul	R/R	5-9/190	30	Norfolk	.358	32	120	18	43	3	1	3	19	16	23	5
					New York N.L.	.230	107	217	28	50	12	2	2	21	27	34	3
	Lydon, Wayne	R/R	6-2/190	22	St. Lucie	.264	133	488	83	129	14	7	4	44	52	96	75
6	Perez, Timo	L/L	5-9/167	28	Norfolk	.222	3	9	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
					New York N.L.	.269	127	346	32	93	21	0	4	42	18	29	5
20	Redman, Prentice	R/R	6-3/185	24	Norfolk	.254	128	433	60	110	29	2	11	48	40	96	24
					New York N.L.	.125	15	24	3	3	1	0	1	2	1	9	2

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Pete Zamora, C Joe Hieptas, C Justin Huber, C Brett Kay, OF Esix Snead.

PROJECTED N.L. EAST FINISH: 1ST

PHILLIES

By Ken Mandel/MLB.com

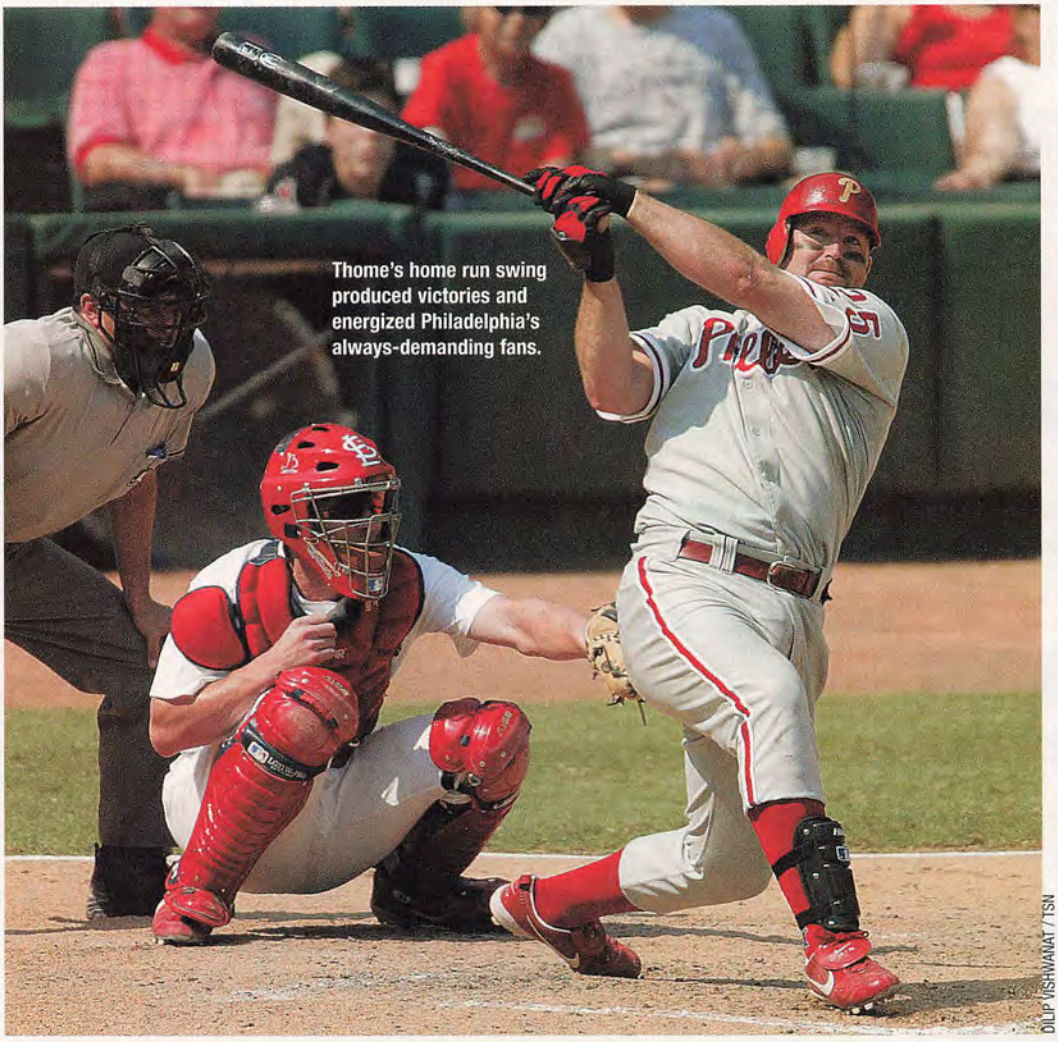
Veterans Stadium soon will be reduced to a pile of rubble, then a parking lot. Housing the Phillies starting this season will be the $346 million Citizens Bank Park, which, unlike its predecessor, is a beautiful structure with many amenities.

Among the many improvements will be a a grass-and-dirt field, which replaces the Vet's legendary turf. But the park's most enjoyable amenity should be the team on the field in 2004.

Continuing their two-year shopping spree—brought on largely because of the new park's projected revenue—the Phils filled three glaring offseason needs. General manager Ed Wade landed arguably the best available closer in Billy Wagner. Wade checked off the next item with a trade for lefthanded starter Eric Milton, who should be a solid innings-eater. The last need was a righthanded setup man, and it was filled by Tim Worrell.

With their projected opening day payroll of $90 million, the Phillies have invested wisely and struck a nice balance between succeeding now and building for the future. This team should challenge for the franchise's first playoff appearance since 1993.

But reaching the postseason out of the N.L. East will not be easy. Don't assume the cost-cutting Braves are finished or that the world champion Marlins were a fluke. The Phillies are in for a fight in 2004.



Thome's home run swing produced victories and energized Philadelphia's always-demanding fans.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

MANAGER Feisty, animated and always intense, Larry Bowa enters his fourth season as Phillies skipper with a 252-233 record, having guided two of his three teams to within a sniff of the playoffs. But he must do more than that this season. He also must shake off the stigma that his super-abrasive style wears players out over a long season.

In 2002, the Phillies started out awful and never recovered. But in both 2001 and '03, the club soared into contention early, then slipped. The '01 squad went 51-58 after June 1, while the '03 unit was 34-36 in the second half and squandered a half-game wild-card lead with eight to play.

Bowa's passion for winning is without equal, but the way he communicates that message has ruffled many a feather. Players in need of coddling have a tough time with Bowa, who is quick to point out mistakes and does not tolerate what he perceives as lackadaisical play.

TSNUMBER

33

The team's saves total, fourth worst in the big leagues. New closer Billy Wagner has topped that figure in each of the last three seasons.

That said, the impatient Bowa showed restraint when Marlon Byrd struggled early in his rookie season, even picking the ideal time to anoint Byrd the team's leadoff hitter. Though Bowa found a permanent home for Byrd, he tinkered with the rest of the lineup—using 119 different combinations.

Should Pat Burrell get off to a slow start, Bowa's reaction will be worth watching. Burrell is the ideal righthanded cleanup hitter to split up lefties Jim Thome and Bobby Abreu, and Bowa cannot endure another poor season from his expected slugger.

A stickler for defense and fundamentals, Bowa was not pleased with the team's rise in errors—from a franchise-low 88 in 2002 to

97 in '03. A healthy David Bell playing third base should help.

While Bowa's extreme use of the bullpen contributed to some of the team's late-season meltdown, he tends to protect starters and usually does not let them go beyond 115 pitches. He may modify this, as he is blessed with a proven rotation. But if a reliever proves particularly sturdy, Bowa will not hesitate to use him often. **GRADE: B**

ROTATION This unit was the strength of last year's team, and it might be better with another year of experience. Without a bona fide ace, the overall depth will be a plus in the long regular season. A healthy Milton could give the team its best five-man rotation in franchise history, complete with four former All-Stars.

Randy Wolf arrived last season as one of the league's best lefthanders, winning 16 games and earning an All-Star appearance. What he lacks in velocity, he makes up for with moxie, and few pitchers think as much as he does. Rarely does he throw a pitch without checking a hitter's reaction to it, then filing the information in his mental database. A deceptive delivery makes his curveball, slider and changeup even more dangerous.

When Vicente Padilla locates his high-90s fastball, he is simply being unfair. The righthander still frustrates Bowa and pitching coach Joe Kerrigan by occasionally losing concentration, and sometimes he does not show his other pitches enough to keep hitters guessing. But at 26 and coming off his second season of 14 wins and 200 innings pitched, he is still getting better.

Kevin Millwood, at 29 the oldest member of the rotation, also contributed 14 wins last season and tossed the ninth no-hitter in team history. He wore down when the Phillies needed him most, going 1-3 with a 5.94 ERA in September. Millwood hired a personal trainer in the offseason to improve his conditioning.

The key to this rotation will be the Nos. 4 and 5 spots, manned by lefthander Milton and 23-year-old righthander Brett Myers.

Leaving the Twins' homer-friendly Metrodome should help fly ball pitcher Milton, who is always around the plate and works quickly. But knee surgeries cost him part of '02 and nearly all of last season.

Myers, who won 14 games in his first full big-league season, has a power curve that can buckle knees. He has to learn to mix all his pitches. **GRADE: A**

BULLPEN Newcomers Wagner and Worrell give the team a lethal back-end combination. Wagner is automatic, and his fastball consistently registers 98-99 mph with an occasional triple-digit reading thrown in. He will evoke the fear in foes that former stopper Jose Mesa never could.

Worrell has been one of the league's most reliable late-inning hurlers the past two seasons. He gets outs with three pitches and provides insurance behind Wagner. When Robb Nen went down for the Giants last season, Worrell stepped in and saved 38 games.

After nearly being released at the end of spring training, lefthander Rheal Cormier became the first Phillies reliever with a sub-2.00 (1.70) ERA since Roger McDowell in 1989. Still, he will be 37 in April, and it is fair to expect some dropoff.

Roberto Hernandez is a hard-throwing righthander who can pitch in the sixth and seventh innings—and serve as an emergency closer. Amaury Telemaco, Josh Hancock and Geoff Geary are candidates for the remaining bullpen jobs. **GRADE: B-**

CATCHING An increased emphasis on using the opposite field and staying on the ball resulted in Mike Lieberthal hitting for the highest average (.313) of his career, though his home run total barely reached the teens. Lieberthal maintains he is not a 31-homer guy—as he was in 1999—and totals of 15, 15 and 13 in his last three seasons of at least 108 games bear this out. But his RBI totals have risen because of improved production with runners in scoring position.

The longest-tenured Phillie, Lieberthal has been the team's opening day catcher for seven straight years, and that will not change. Hampered by injuries the past few seasons, he erased durability questions in '03 by starting 129 games.

Backing him up for the third straight year is Todd Pratt, who hit four homers and compiled a .400 on-base percentage in 43 games. **GRADE: A-**

INFIELD Although he waited until the eighth game of the season to hit his first homer, Jim Thome followed with plenty more, and his efforts energized the team, the fans and the city. He finished with 47, tying Alex Rodriguez for the major league lead, and his 131 RBIs were a career high. The fierce-hacking first baseman whiffed an N.L.-leading 182 times, the second-highest total of his career. Defensively, his ability to scoop low throws made up for limited range.

Placido Polanco, the team's most complete player, attained career highs in homers

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. LF **Pat Burrell** to rebound and hit 40 homers. He should arrive at camp refreshed and ready to resume his journey toward becoming one of the game's elite righthanded sluggers.
2. Another MVP-type season for 1B **Jim Thome**. He drove in a career-high 131 runs and clubbed 47 homers last year. With a better understanding of N.L. pitchers, expect an improved average as well.
3. The continued emergence of CF **Marlon Bryd**. Strong and fast, Byrd caught fire after being inserted into the leadoff spot in July. A full season at the top of the order could produce 20/20 results.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

The (hitters') high strikeout totals must be addressed if the team expects to play in October. Situational hitting was and is the key issue, and Placido Polanco needs more of his teammates to understand the value of moving a runner. David Bell gets this, too, so it's important for him to stay healthy. ... If Marlon Byrd and Jimmy Rollins, the two fastest guys on the team, get on base regularly—a tall order for Rollins—they can make a lot happen. (Larry) Bowa knows small ball, but needs to get the message through. His brash personality forced some players to tune out, so they couldn't hear what is a smart approach to playing the game. ... The team is sunk without a repeat of last year's defensive consistency. ... As for the pitchers, the entire group tired late in the season, especially Kevin Millwood and the bullpen. Bowa can help by not constantly getting his relievers up, regardless of whether they pitch.

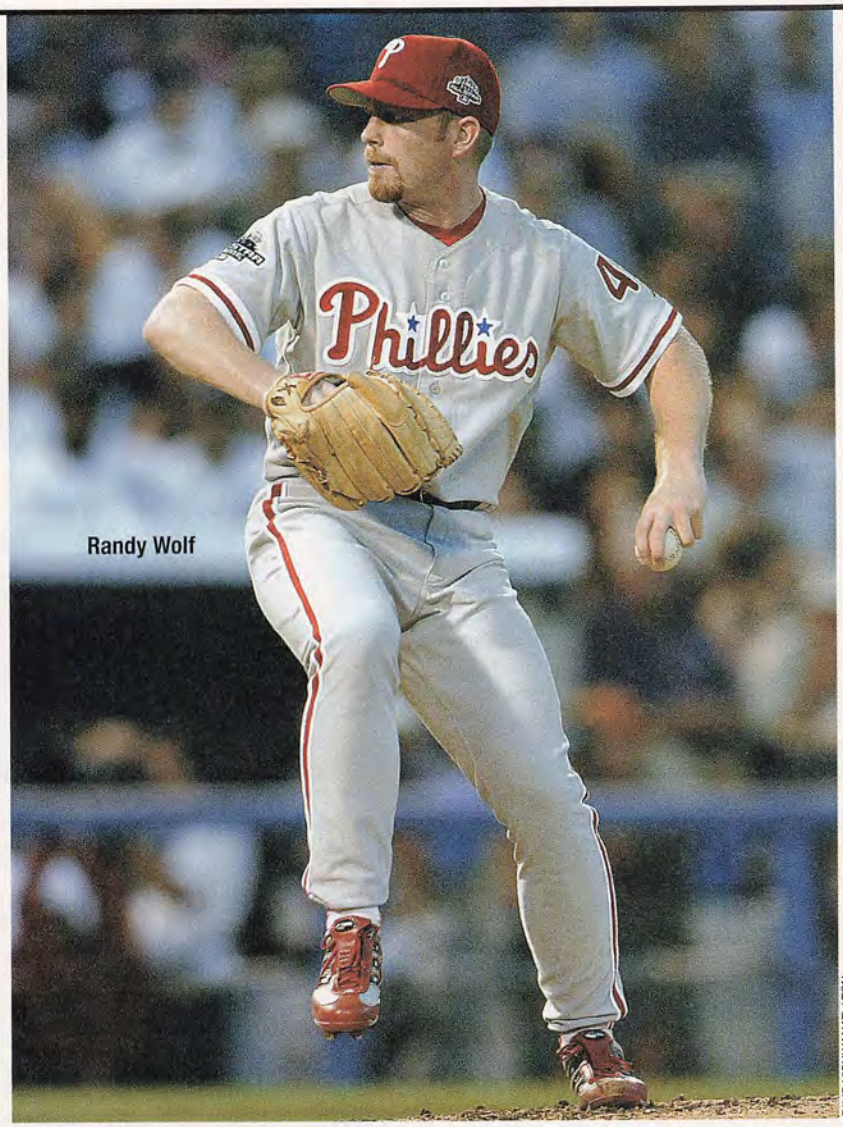
GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Marlon Byrd, CF	**5**
Soon to become well-rounded offensive threat.	
2. Placido Polanco, 2B	**5**
Complete player is tough to strike out.	
3. Bobby Abreu, RF	**7**
Power, speed equal five straight 20/20 seasons.	
4. Pat Burrell, LF	**6**
Must put awful season behind him.	
5. Jim Thome, 1B	**6**
Average should rise during second year in N.L.	
6. Mike Lieberthal, C	**7**
Had his most consistent season, start to finish.	
7. Jimmy Rollins, SS	**6**
Needs better plate discipline.	
8. David Bell, 3B	**4**
When healthy, a consistent performer.	
Starters	
1. Kevin Millwood, RH	**7**
Must rebound from subpar September.	
2. Randy Wolf, LH	**7**
Primed for his first 20-win season.	
3. Vicente Padilla, RH	**6**
Nasty stuff, but he can lose his concentration.	
4. Eric Milton, LH	**5**
Control artist who needs to stay healthy.	
5. Brett Myers, RH	**4**
Had a 7.09 ERA over his final nine starts.	
Closer	
Billy Wagner, LH	**8**
No mystery to his repertoire—all heat.	
Total	**83**

(14), RBIs (63) and stolen bases (14), and showed defensive versatility by moving from second to third after Bell went down. Polanco's ability to put the ball in play makes him an ideal No. 2 hitter.

While Polanco was at second, he and Jimmy Rollins formed one of the league's best double-play combos. Rollins continued to display Gold Glove-caliber defense, cutting balls off, transferring quickly from his glove and making strong throws. But until



Phillies Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.261	.262
Runs	791	747
Hits	1448	1445
Home runs	166	169
Stolen bases	72	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.04	4.28
Complete games	9	6
Saves	33	41
Walks	536	549
Strikeouts	1060	1067
Errors	97	106

WINS AND LOSSES

86-76 (3rd in N.L. East), 49-32 at home, 37-44 on road, 39-37 vs. N.L. East, 21-18 vs. N.L. Central, 18-14 vs. N.L. West, 8-7 vs. A.L., 14-17 vs. LH starters, 72-59 vs. RH starters, 34-37 on grass, 52-39 on turf, 27-23 in daytime, 59-53 at night, 20-18 in one-run games, 10-3 in extra-inning games, 2-0-1 in doubleheaders.
Larry Bowa's record: 252-233, 3 seasons with Phillies; 333-360, 5 seasons (Padres, Phillies).
Postseason: none.
Team record past five years: 394-415 (.487, ranks 17th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Roberto Hernandez (FA/Braves), LHP Eric Milton (trade/Twins), LHP Billy Wagner (trade/Astros), IF/C Shawn Wooten (FA/Angels), RHP Tim Worrell (FA/Giants).
Losses: RHP Terry Adams (FA/Blue Jays), RHP Brandon Duckworth (trade/Astros), RHP Jose Mesa (FA), LHP Dan Plesac (retired), RHP Carlos Silva (trade/Twins), C Kelly Stinnett (FA/Royals), RHP Turk Wendell (FA), RHP Mike Williams (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: WPEN-AM (950)
Cable TV: Comcast SportsNet
Website: phillies.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (International)
Class AA: Reading (Eastern)
Class A: Clearwater (Florida State), Lakewood (South Atlantic), Batavia (New York-Pennsylvania)
Rookie: Gulf Coast Phillies (Gulf Coast)

Citizens Bank Park

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 43,500
Ticket information: 215-463-1000

Spring training: TBA (Clearwater, Fla.)
Ticket information: 215-463-1000, 727-442-8496

he learns to work the count in his favor and reduce his strikeouts below the century mark, he won't realize his potential. Rollins' steals declined from 31 in '02 to 20 last season, partly because he hit in the lower third of the order and because the Phils have become less of a running team.

Bell's back injury disrupted one of the N.L.'s best defenses. He played hurt through most of the first half, then missed all but two games after the break. Surgery was not required, and Bell embarked on a new offseason strengthening program. When healthy, he is a solid defender and run producer.

A healthy starting four will return Tomas Perez to a utility role and switch-hitting option off the bench. Free-agent pickup Shawn Wooten also will provide righthanded pinch-hitting help and backup at first base and third. **GRADE: B+**

OUTFIELD Bobby Abreu is a perennial candidate to win a batting title. When it comes to working pitchers and getting favorable counts, he is relentless, having led the major leagues in pitches seen two years running. He is coming off five straight 20-homer, 20-steal seasons and has topped 100 RBIs twice in the past three years. However, his strikeout totals always are high, and defensively he has gone from solid to adequate and rarely goes all out to make a tough play. But Abreu was disappointed in his performance last season and vowed to improve.

Burrell is an adequate defender who makes up for bad routes with his strong, accurate arm. He stumbled through a horrible offensive season, batting .209, but he managed 21 homers and 64 RBIs. His confidence waned, and his stroke constantly changed, preventing him from finding a rhythm. But he is too talented to struggle like that again.

Byrd shook off a dismal start to become a needed table-setting threat. His speed allowed him to track down balls in the gaps. Byrd occasionally threw to the wrong base and missed the cutoff, something that can be attributed to youth. But he is the hardest-working player on the team.

The top reserves are Ricky Ledee and Jason Michaels. The pair combined for 18 homers. **GRADE: B**

Ken Mandel covers the Phillies for MLB.com.

Phillies Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 PIT	6	7 PIT	8 PIT	9 FLA	10 FLA
11 FLA	12 CIN	13	14 CIN	15 CIN	16 MON	17 MON
18 MON	19	20 FLA	21 FLA	22 FLA	23 MON	24 MON
25 MON	26	27 STL	28 STL	29 STL	30 ARI	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 ARI
2 ARI	3	4 STL	5 STL	6 STL	7 ARI	8 ARI
9 ARI	10	11 SF	12 SF	13 SF	14 COL	15 COL
16 COL	17 COL	18 LA	19 LA	20 LA	21 SD	22 SD
23 SD	24	25 NYM	26 NYM	27 ATL	28 ATL	29 ATL
30 ATL	31 NYM					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 NYM	2 NYM	3 ATL	4 ATL	5 ATL
6 ATL	7	8 CHW	9 CHW	10 CHW	11 MIN	12 MIN
13 MIN	14	15 DET	16 DET	17 DET	18 KC	19 KC
20 KC	21	22 MON	23 MON	24 MON	25 BOS	26 BOS
27 BOS	28 MON	29 MON	30 MON			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 MON	2 BAL	3 BAL
4 BAL	5 NYM	6 NYM	7 NYM	8 NYM	9 ATL	10 ATL
11 ATL	12	13 All-Star	14	15 NYM	16 NYM	17 NYM
18 NYM	19 ATL	20 ATL	21 FLA	22 FLA	23 CHC	24 CHC
25 CHC	26 FLA	27 FLA	28 FLA	29 FLA	30 CHC	31 CHC

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 CHC	2	3 SD	4 SD	5 SD	6 LA	7 LA
8 LA	9 COL	10 COL	11 COL	12 COL	13 SF	14 SF
15 SF	16	17 HOU	18 HOU	19 HOU	20 MIL	21 MIL
22 MIL	23 HOU	24 HOU	25 HOU	26	27 MIL	28 MIL
29 MIL	30	31 ATL				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 ATL	2	3 NYM	4 NYM
5 NYM	6 ATL	7 ATL	8 ATL	9 ATL	10 NYM	11 NYM
12 NYM	13 CIN	14 CIN	15 CIN	16	17 MON	18 MON
19 MON	20	21 FLA	22 FLA	23 FLA	24 MON	25 MON
26 MON	27 PIT	28 PIT	29 PIT	30 FLA		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 FLA	2 FLA
3 FLA	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Larry Bowa (10). Coaches: Mick Billmeyer, Greg Gross (21), Ramon Henderson (59), Joe Kerrigan (16), Milt Thompson, Gary Varsho (25), John Vukovich (18).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	Alvarez, Victor	L/L	5-10/150	27	Los Angeles	0-1	12.71	5/0	0	5.2	9	8	8	6	3
					Las Vegas	4-4	2.70	22/7	1	63.1	53	25	19	15	47
	Bucktrot, Keith	L/R	6-2/180	23	Clearwater	7-7	3.33	19/17	0	110.2	104	50	41	29	68
					Reading	3-1	2.56	7/7	0	45.2	34	17	13	15	30
48	Coggin, Dave	R/R	6-4/205	27	Scranton/W.B.	0-0	1.50	4/3	0	6.0	4	1	1	1	3
					Clearwater	0-0	2.25	3/3	0	4.0	3	1	1	2	2
37	Cormier, Rheal	L/L	5-10/195	36	Philadelphia	8-0	1.70	65/0	1	84.2	54	18	16	25	67
56	Geary, Geoff	R/R	6-0/170	27	Scranton/W.B.	9-4	2.16	46/3	5	87.2	73	26	21	13	80
					Philadelphia	0-0	4.50	5/0	0	6.0	8	3	3	3	3
50	Hancock, Josh	R/R	6-3/217	25	Scranton/W.B.	10-9	3.86	28/27	0	165.2	147	78	71	46	122
					Philadelphia	0-0	3.00	2/0	0	3.0	2	1	1	0	4
	Hernandez, Ro.	R/R	6-4/250	39	Richmond	1-1	9.45	6/0	0	6.2	11	9	7	4	10
					Atlanta	5-3	4.35	66/0	0	60.0	61	36	29	43	45
28	Junge, Eric	R/R	6-5/215	27	Philadelphia	0-0	3.52	6/0	0	7.2	5	3	3	1	5
					Scranton/W.B.	1-0	3.06	10/8	0	47.0	38	20	16	16	42
57	Madson, Ryan	L/R	6-6/180	23	Clearwater	0-0	5.63	2/2	0	8.0	11	5	5	2	9
					Scranton/W.B.	12-8	3.50	26/26	0	157.0	157	70	61	42	138
					Philadelphia	0-0	0.00	1/0	0	2.0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Millwood, Kevin	R/R	6-4/220	29	Philadelphia	14-12	4.01	35/35	0	222.0	210	103	99	68	169
	Milton, Eric	L/L	6-3/225	28	Fort Myers	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	2.0	1	0	0	2	2
					Minnesota	1-0	2.65	3/3	0	17.0	15	5	5	1	7
39	Myers, Brett	R/R	6-4/215	23	Philadelphia	14-9	4.43	32/32	0	193.0	205	99	95	76	143
44	Padilla, Vicente	R/R	6-2/215	26	Philadelphia	14-12	3.62	32/32	0	208.2	196	94	84	62	133
	Perez, Franklin	R/R	6-2/175	25				Did Not Play							
	Ramirez, Elizardo	R/R	6-0/145	21	Clearwater	13-9	3.78	27/25	0	157.1	181	85	66	33	101
	Simon, Alfredo	R/R	6-4/175	22	Lakewood	5-0	3.79	14/7	2	71.1	59	32	30	25	66
	Smith, Bud	L/L	6-0/170	24	Reading	1-1	5.35	8/8	0	37.0	40	23	22	15	24
					Clearwater	1-0	1.47	4/2	0	18.1	10	3	3	4	12
47	Telemaco, Amaury	R/R	6-3/222	30	Scranton/W.B.	10-9	3.24	25/24	0	155.1	125	59	56	22	116
					Philadelphia	1-4	3.97	8/8	0	45.1	41	22	20	11	29
13	Wagner, Billy	L/L	5-11/195	32	Houston	1-4	1.78	78/0	44	86.0	52	18	17	23	105
43	Wolf, Randy	L/L	6-0/194	27	Philadelphia	16-10	4.23	33/33	0	200.0	176	101	94	78	177
	Worrell, Tim	R/R	6-4/230	36	San Francisco	4-4	2.87	76/0	38	78.1	74	35	25	28	65

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
24	Lieberthal, Mike	R/R	6-0/195	32	Philadelphia	.313	131	508	68	159	30	1	13	81	38	59	0
3	Pratt, Todd	R/R	6-3/235	37	Philadelphia	.272	43	125	16	34	10	1	4	20	22	38	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
4	Bell, David	R/R	5-10/195	31	Philadelphia	.195	85	297	32	58	14	0	4	37	41	40	0
	Howard, Ryan	L/L	6-4/230	24	Clearwater	.304	130	490	67	149	32	1	23	82	50	151	0
65	Machado, And.	B/R	5-11/165	23	Reading	.196	123	423	80	83	19	4	5	20	108	120	49
9	Perez, Tomas	B/R	5-11/177	30	Philadelphia	.265	125	298	39	79	18	1	5	33	23	54	0
23	Polanco, Placido	R/R	5-10/185	28	Philadelphia	.289	122	492	87	142	30	3	14	63	42	38	14
	Richardson, Juan	R/R	6-1/175	25	Reading	.270	65	248	37	67	9	0	15	34	17	69	2
6	Rollins, Jimmy	B/R	5-8/165	25	Philadelphia	.263	156	628	85	165	42	6	8	62	54	113	20
25	Thome, Jim	L/R	6-4/240	33	Philadelphia	.266	159	578	111	154	30	3	47	131	111	182	0
	Utley, Chase	L/R	6-1/170	25	Scranton/W.B.	.323	113	431	80	139	26	2	18	77	41	75	10
					Philadelphia	.239	43	134	13	32	10	1	2	21	11	22	2
	Wooten, Shawn	R/R	5-10/230	31	Anaheim	.243	98	272	25	66	8	0	7	32	24	45	0

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
53	Abreu, Bobby	L/R	6-0/200	30	Philadelphia	.300	158	577	99	173	35	1	20	101	109	126	22
5	Burrell, Pat	R/R	6-4/222	27	Philadelphia	.209	146	522	57	109	31	4	21	64	72	142	0
29	Byrd, Marlon	R/R	6-0/230	26	Scranton/W.B.	.750	1	4	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
					Reading	.313	3	16	3	5	0	0	1	3	0	3	0
					Philadelphia	.303	135	495	86	150	28	4	7	45	44	94	11
33	Ledee, Ricky	L/L	6-1/200	30	Philadelphia	.247	121	255	37	63	15	2	13	46	34	59	0
22	Michaels, Jason	R/R	6-0/204	27	Clearwater	.000	4	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
					Philadelphia	.330	76	109	20	36	11	0	5	17	15	22	0
66	Padilla, Jorge	R/R	6-2/200	24	Reading	.295	46	173	21	51	13	1	2	23	18	29	11

Spring Training Invitees: LHP Jim Crowell, RHP Gavin Floyd, LHP Cole Hamels, RHP Adam Roller, LHP Mike Spiegel, C John Castellano, C Casey Martinez, C Jeremy Salazar, C Nick Tempesta, IF Jim Deschaine, IF J.P. Roberge, OF Mark Budzinski, OF Lou Collier, OF Kevin Gibbs, OF Jim Rushford, OF Mark Smith.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES

PROJECTED N.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 6TH

By Ed Eagle/MLB.com

The Pirates have gone to great lengths to avoid using the term "rebuilding." They realize their fans, who have suffered through a franchise-record 11 consecutive losing seasons, have grown weary of reclamation projects. But after dealing many of their most productive veterans last season—including closer Mike Williams, outfielder Brian Giles and third baseman Aramis Ramirez—for prospects, the Pirates, in reality, will be starting over again in 2004.

Since their heartbreaking loss to the Atlanta Braves in the seventh game of the 1992 NLCS and the free-agent defections of Barry Bonds and others that followed, the Pirates have found themselves in a seemingly never-ending rebuilding cycle. Their efforts have been hampered by ill-advised free-agent signings and a depleted farm system that failed to deliver impact players.

TSNUMBER

89

Combined homers hit by departed Reggie Sanders, Matt Stairs, Brian Giles, Aramis Ramirez and Randall Simon for the Pirates in 2003.

That pattern is changing under general manager Dave Littlefield, who has emphasized player development and scouting as the keys to long-term success. And Littlefield's renewed commitment to building from within appears to be paying dividends. Each of the Pirates' minor league affiliates finished with a winning record in 2003, and the club has stockpiled an impressive arsenal of young arms. Help is on the way, although most of the top prospects are still a year or two from making an impact in the big leagues.

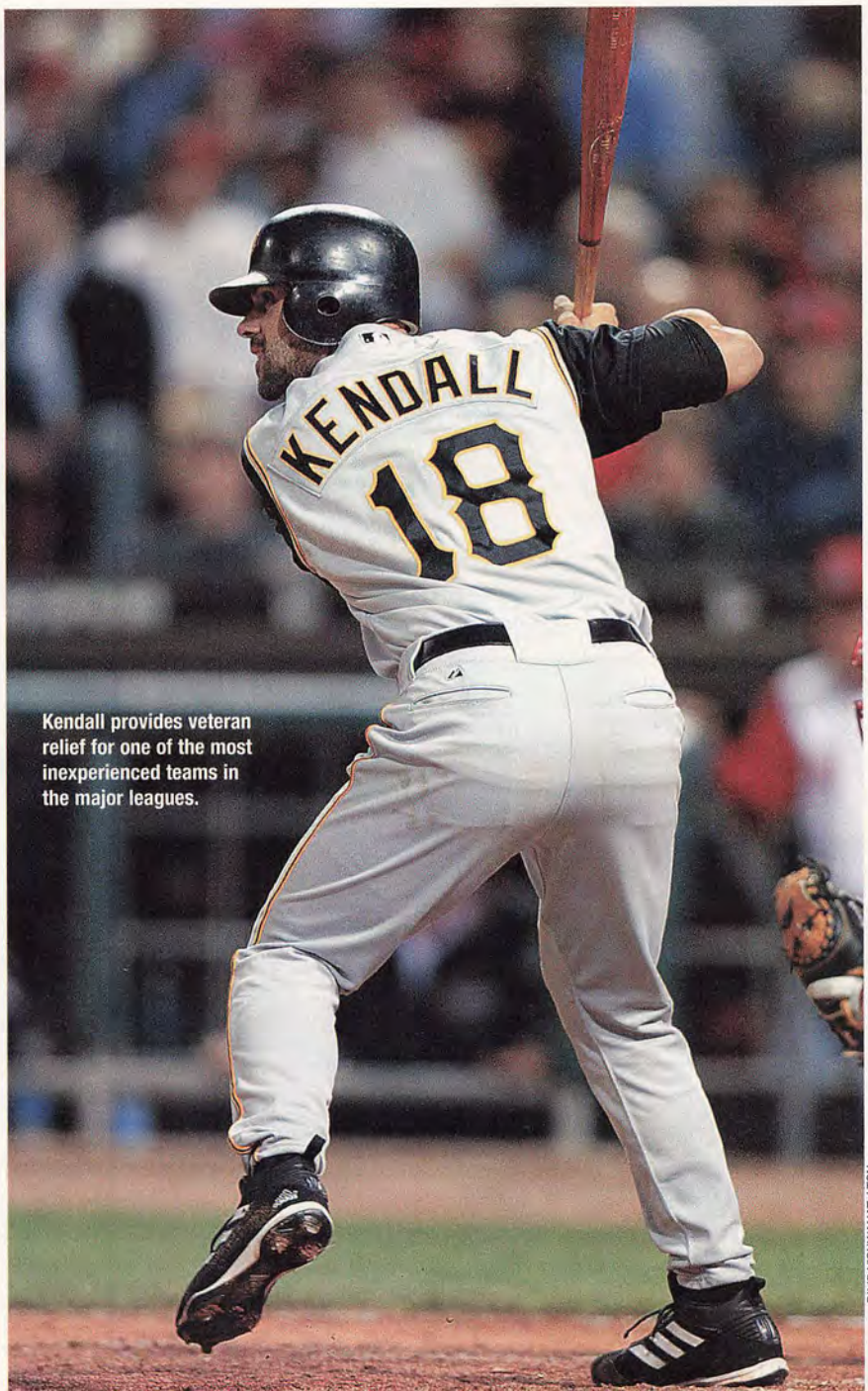
With little help expected in 2004, the Pirates will rely on contributions from such inexperienced players as Jason Bay, Freddy Sanchez, Bobby Hill and Oliver Perez, all of whom were acquired in deals for veterans a year ago. As he did last winter, Littlefield again will scour the free-agent bargain bin in an effort to find productive players.

The patchwork approach almost certainly will result in the Pirates' 12th consecutive losing season as they await the arrival of those prospects who are expected to lead the franchise back into playoff contention.

MANAGER Few expected Lloyd McClendon to survive the 2003 season. On the last year of a three-year contract he had signed under previous G.M. Cam Bonifay, McClendon was the epitome of the lame-duck skipper. After the team struggled through the first three months with its most talented roster in years, McClendon's dismissal seemed imminent. Instead, prior to the All-Star break, he was given a one-year extension with a club option for a second.

Littlefield, knowing that financial problems would force him to deal most of the veteran core, believed McClendon would be the best man to lead a far less experienced club. The decision paid off. McClendon led the patchwork Pirates to a respectable 33-36 mark over the final 69 games.

In three seasons, McClendon's most impressive trait has been his ability to motivate. His fiery personality and competitive nature are contagious. Although his team usually is outmanned, McClendon's squad plays hard every night.



Kendall provides veteran relief for one of the most inexperienced teams in the major leagues.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Hitting coach Gerald Perry was one of the unsung heroes of 2003. In his first season with the Pirates, the club finished third in the N.L. with a .267 average—a huge improvement over the two previous seasons. Pitching coach Spin Williams has done a fine job building the endurance of his young starters while working with McClendon to keep a close eye on pitch counts. The young Pirates have thus avoided the abuse that resulted in arm injuries under previous management. **GRADE C+**

ROTATION The success of this unit will depend on the right shoulder of Kris Benson. After bouncing back from reconstructive elbow surgery in 2002, Benson was expected to emerge as the ace. Instead, he struggled with control and was hit hard before being placed on the 60-day disabled list with shoulder tendinitis. Benson completed his offseason rehabilitation program without any setbacks and should be back at full strength in 2004.

Kip Wells established himself as a top-of-the-rotation starter last season and brings outstanding stuff and a solid makeup to the mound. Wells' biggest problem is keeping his pitch count down. The righthander was impressive in six September starts, going 4-2 with a 1.71 ERA in 42 innings.

The third rotation spot belongs to righthander Josh Fogg, who has tied for the team lead in wins each of his two big-league seasons. Although not a hard thrower, Fogg is a bulldog who battles for every out. But because he relies on his changeup, he can get hit hard when struggling with command.

Lefthander Oliver Perez was the key acquisition in the deal that sent Giles to San Diego. His fastball tops out in the high 90s and his nasty slider can make hitters look foolish. But Perez struggles with command and the Pirates hope a full season under Williams will improve his mechanics and give him better location.

Several candidates will vie for the final rotation spot. Lefthander Dave Williams posted a 3.71 ERA in 22 appearances as a rookie in 2001, but he has missed most of the last two seasons after undergoing shoulder surgery. If healthy, he could be the front-runner. Other possibilities are righthander Ryan Vogelsong, a September call-up, and top prospect Sean Burnett, a soft-throwing lefty with pinpoint control. **GRADE: C+**

BULLPEN This was the Pirates' Achilles' heel in 2003. Former closer Mike Williams and lefthanded setup man Scott Sauerbeck failed to hold leads in the first half and were dealt in July. Righthanded setup man Brian Boehringer was relegated mostly to mop-up duty after his ERA ballooned over 9.00.

Joe Beimel, a lefthander who had performed well in middle relief, was hit hard after replacing Sauerbeck in the setup role. Righthander Mike Lincoln, a solid middle reliever the previous two seasons, saw his effectiveness diminish during a brief stint as the club's de facto closer. Lincoln became a free agent and Beimel will return to middle relief, relinquishing his setup job to either Mike Gonzalez or John Grabow, a pair of 2003 rookie lefthanders who showed glimpses of potential down the stretch.

Righthander Mark Corey led the Pacific Coast League with 30 saves before being promoted in August. Although he has minor league experience as a closer, McClendon is reluctant to use him in that role because he does not possess a dominant strikeout pitch.

Jason Boyd, a righthander claimed off waivers from Cleveland, will compete with Corey and Boehringer for the righthanded setup role.

Veterans Brian Meadows and Salomon Torres will battle for long-relief work. Torres also could audition for the closer job if Littlefield cannot find an inexpensive veteran with closing experience. Former Tigers closer Juan Acevedo, who was signed to a minor league contract, could get a spring look. **GRADE: D**

CATCHING After two injury-plagued seasons, Jason Kendall re-established himself as one of the game's top receivers last season. Kendall ranked sixth in the N.L. with a .325 average and led all backstops with 145 starts. A throwback type who plays hard every night, Kendall sets the tone for his young teammates.

Although Kendall has been the subject of countless trade rumors, he remains the team's lone proven veteran. He also will be a mentor for one of two prospects, Humberto Cota or J.R. House, who will compete for the backup job.

Cota, the organization's top minor league player in 2001, batted just .205 in 62 games with Class AAA Nashville last season and was suspended in late August for refusing to play. House, once considered the Pirates' top prospect, has been derailed by injuries but was impressive in the Arizona Fall League and could win a spot on the roster with a strong spring showing. **GRADE: B**

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A breakout by RHP **Kip Wells**. Poor run support and bullpen breakdowns hurt him last year. Manager **Lloyd McClendon** will allow Wells to pitch deeper into games and protect his own leads.
2. A 30-home run season for 1B/OF/C **Craig Wilson**. After showing power potential in a limited role, Wilson will get to play every day. His pitch selection and patience at the plate are improving.
3. LHP **Sean Burnett** to join the rotation before August. The 21-year-old was the pitcher of the year in the Class AA Eastern League last season and will need no more than a few months at Class AAA.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

Tike Redman certainly came on in the second half, but I can't help but think of Adrian Brown. Brown did the same thing three or four years ago and everyone in baseball thought that he was going to be their leadoff hitter and center fielder. ... Kip Wells is emerging as a legitimate No. 2 starter for any club in baseball. ... I've seen Bobby Hill enough to know that he should be a functional player. But it's a crapshoot as to whether or not he will play second base well enough defensively, which is something they are in desperate need of. ... If you use Craig Wilson in short doses and you match him up against lefthanded pitchers and sinkerball-type guys, he's an important, versatile player. I think he is exposed if he plays every day. ... Joe Beimel has made little, if any, adjustments for two years. He has absolutely nothing for righthanded hitters and it has been well-documented that even against lefthanders, he doesn't have enough to get them out.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Tike Redman, CF	**5**
Was excellent August, September a fluke?	
2. Jack Wilson, SS	**4**
Defensive ace must show patience at the plate.	
3. Jason Kendall, C	**5**
Contact hitter will have to drive in runs.	
4. Craig Wilson, 1B	**3**
Power hitter must make more contact.	
5. Jason Bay, LF	**4**
Can be a 20-20 player with reduced strikeouts.	
6. J.J. Davis, RF	**4**
Good power, but struggles vs. veteran pitchers.	
7. Chris Stynes, 3B	**5**
Good defense and a steady-as-she-goes bat.	
8. Freddy Sanchez, 2B	**4**
Has hit in minors but is a big-league unknown.	
Starters	
1. Kris Benson, RH	**5**
Must avoid injury problems to reach potential.	
2. Kip Wells, RH	**4**
Hard thrower needs to reduce pitch count.	
3. Josh Fogg, RH	**4**
Fierce competitor but has only average stuff.	
4. Oliver Perez, LH	**4**
Can be dominant when throwing strikes.	
5. Dave Williams, LH	**3**
Must battle back from shoulder surgery.	
Closer	
Salomon Torres, RH	**4**
Tough on hitters first time through the lineup.	
Total	**58**

INFIELD This group will be inexperienced and unpredictable.

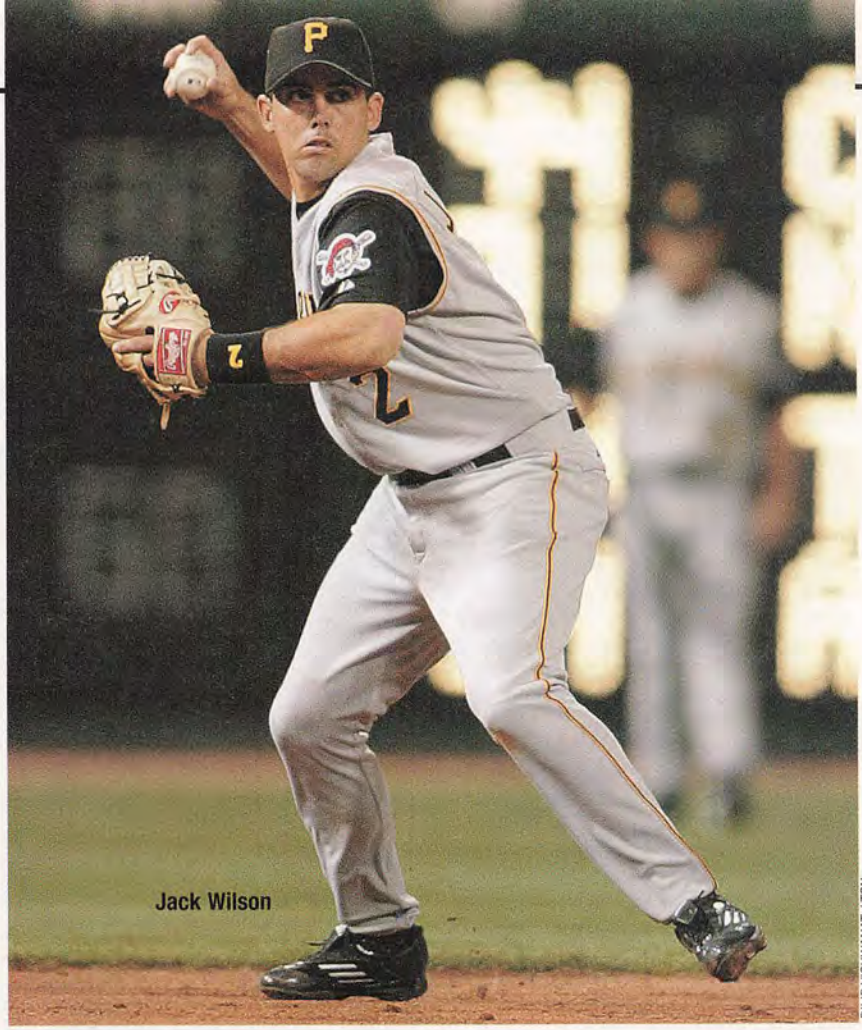
Jack Wilson returns for his fourth season as a starting shortstop, but he will work with one of two inexperienced second basemen—Hill or Sanchez. Wilson is a proficient defensive player who struggles with the bat. He must be patient and improve his career .246 batting average and .292 on-base percentage.

Sanchez batted .341 at Class AAA Pawtucket before being sidelined with an ankle injury. A shortstop throughout much of his minor league career, he has range and a solid arm. Hill, once considered the Cubs' second baseman of the future, was hampered by back problems while spending most of last season at the Class AAA level. Hill has hit for average in the minor leagues, but he has little power and suspect defensive ability.

Versatile Craig Wilson will get his first opportunity to play regularly in 2004—probably at first base. The Pirates like his power—47 home runs in 835 career at-bats—and expect his average to rise if he can cut down on strikeouts. Wilson will have to come close to his 30-homer potential and improve his defense to stay in the lineup.

Free-agent third baseman Chris Stynes will combine with Wilson to give the Pirates a solid defensive left side. Stynes, who started last season for Colorado, also is a career .280 hitter. Rob Mackowiak appears destined for backup duty. McClendon has called him his best athlete and would prefer to use his lefthanded bat off the bench.

Abraham Nunez will serve as a backup at shortstop and second base. Carlos Rivera will be a late-inning defensive replacement and spot starter at first. **GRADE: C-**


Jack Wilson

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

OUTFIELD Tike Redman was a late-season surprise after replacing Kenny Lofton in center field. He batted .330 with 24 extra-base hits and seven stolen bases in 56 games while leading N.L. batters with 76 hits over the final two months. Redman also has the speed to track down fly balls in PNC Park's spacious outfield.

But he also is the centerpiece for what figures to be a very inexperienced unit. Redman, who has played 102 big-league games, will be flanked by Jason Bay, a 30-game big leaguer, and J.J. Davis, who has played 28 games in the majors. The potential is there, but it could take time to pull it out.

Bay, who was acquired from the Padres in the Giles deal, will man left field. He sometimes struggles to make contact, but he impressed the Pirates with his speed/power combination during his brief trial last season. Right fielder Davis, like Bay, has power, speed and a strong arm. But he has looked overmatched during two brief big-league stints.

Mackowiak has the strongest arm on the team and can fill in at all three outfield positions. Craig Wilson could also play right field in addition to first base. Daryle Ward, who was signed as a free agent, can be an occasional outfielder and provide lefthanded power off the bench. **GRADE: C-**

Ed Eagle covers the Pirates for MLB.com.

Pirates Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.267	.262
Runs	753	747
Hits	1492	1445
Home runs	163	169
Stolen bases	86	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.64	4.28
Complete games	7	6
Saves	44	41
Walks	502	549
Strikeouts	926	1067
Errors	123	106

WINS AND LOSSES

75-87 (4th in N.L. Central), 39-42 at home, 36-45 on road, 15-18 vs. N.L. East, 39-45 vs. N.L. Central, 16-17 vs. N.L. West, 5-7 vs. A.L., 20-25 vs. LH starters, 55-62 vs. RH starters, 70-80 on grass, 5-7 on turf, 24-34 in daytime, 51-53 at night, 24-27 in one-run games, 5-5 in extra-inning games, 1-2-2 in doubleheaders.
Lloyd McClendon's record: 209-276, 3 seasons with Pirates.
Postseason: none.
Team record past five years: 356-452 (.441, ranks 25th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: RHP Juan Acevedo (FA/Blue Jays), RHP Jason Boyd (waivers/Indians), 3B Chris Stynes (FA/Rockies), 1B/OF Daryle Ward (FA/Dodgers).
Losses: RHP Jeff D'Amico (FA/Indians), 3B Jose Hernandez (FA), RHP Mike Lincoln (FA/Cardinals), RHP Pat Mahomes (FA), IF Jeff Reboulet (FA), 2B Pokey Reese (FA/Red Sox), OF Reggie Sanders (FA/Cardinals), OF Matt Stairs (FA/Royals), RHP Julian Tavarez (FA/Cardinals).

MEDIA

Radio: KDKA-AM (1020)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Pittsburgh
Website: pittsburghpirates.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Nashville (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Altoona (Eastern)
Class A: Hickory (South Atlantic), Lynchburg (Carolina), Williamsport (New York-Pennsylvania)
Rookie: Gulf Coast Pirates (Gulf Coast)

PNC Park

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 38,496
Ticket information: 800-289-2827

Spring training: McKechnie Field (Bradenton, Fla.)
Ticket information: 941-748-4610

Pirates Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 PHI	6	7 PHI	8 PHI	9 CIN	10 CIN
11 CIN	12 CHC	13	14 CHC	15 CHC	16 NYM	17 NYM
18 NYM	19	20 CHC	21 CHC	22 CHC	23 CIN	24 CIN
25 CIN	26 CIN	27 HOU	28 HOU	29 HOU	30 MIL	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 MIL
2 MIL	3	4 HOU	5 HOU	6 HOU	7 LA	8 LA
9 LA	10	11 COL	12 COL	13 COL	14 SF	15 SF
16 SF	17	18 SD	19 SD	20 SD	21 MIL	22 MIL
23 MIL	24	25 STL	26 STL	27 STL	28 CHC	29 CHC
30 CHC	31 STL					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 STL	2 STL	3 STL	4 CHC	5 CHC
6 CHC	7 TEX	8 TEX	9 TEX	10	11 OAK	12 OAK
13 OAK	14	15 ANA	16 ANA	17 ANA	18 SEA	19 SEA
20 SEA	21 HOU	22 HOU	23 HOU	24 HOU	25 CIN	26 CIN
27 CIN	28 STL	29 STL	30 STL			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 MIL	3 MIL
4 MIL	5 FLA	6 FLA	7 FLA	8 * MON	9 * MON	10 * MON
11 * MON	12	13 All-Star	14	15	16 FLA	17 FLA
18 FLA	19 MON	20 MON	21 ATL	22 ATL	23 CIN	24 CIN
25 CIN	26 ATL	27 ATL	28 ATL	29 ATL	30 MIL	31 MIL

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 MIL	2	3 LA	4 LA	5 LA	6 SD	7 SD
8 SD	9	10 SF	11 SF	12 SF	13 COL	14 COL
15 COL	16 ARI	17 ARI	18 ARI	19 STL	20 STL	21 STL
22 STL	23 ARI	24 ARI	25 ARI	26	27 STL	28 STL
29 STL	30 MIL	31 MIL				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 MIL	2 MIL	3 HOU	4 HOU
5 HOU	6 MIL	7 MIL	8 MIL	9 HOU	10 HOU	11 HOU
12 HOU	13 CHC	14 CHC	15 CHC	16	17 NYM	18 NYM
19 NYM	20	21 CHC	22 CHC	23 CHC	24 CIN	25 CIN
26 CIN	27 PHI	28 PHI	29 PHI	30		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 CIN	2 CIN
3 CIN	4	5	6	7	8	9

* San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Lloyd McClendon (23). Coaches: Rusty Kuntz (48), Pete Mackanin (25), Gerald Perry (28), John Russell (13), Bruce Tanner (52), Spin Williams (54).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
53	Beimel, Joe	L/L	6-3/220	26	Pittsburgh	1-3	5.05	69/0	0	62.1	69	35	35	33	42
34	Benson, Kris	R/R	6-4/195	29	Pittsburgh	5-9	4.97	18/18	0	105.0	127	67	58	36	68
71	Boehringer, Brian	B/R	6-2/192	34	Pittsburgh	5-4	5.49	62/0	0	62.1	64	39	38	30	47
	Boyd, Jason	R/R	6-3/180	31	Buffalo	1-0	1.23	9/0	3	14.2	12	3	2	2	14
					Cleveland	3-1	4.30	44/0	0	52.1	38	25	25	26	31
	Bradley, Bobby	R/R	6-1/180	23	G.C. Pirates	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	3.0	1	0	0	1	4
					Lynchburg	3-2	3.40	12/12	0	50.1	43	21	19	28	36
	Burnett, Sean	L/L	6-1/180	21	Altoona	14-6	3.21	27/27	0	159.2	158	60	57	29	86
44	Corey, Mark	R/R	6-3/220	29	Nashville	1-3	4.34	46/0	30	45.2	37	23	22	18	63
					Pittsburgh	1-2	5.34	22/0	0	30.1	29	19	18	11	27
27	Fogg, Josh	R/R	6-0/202	27	Nashville	0-1	5.40	2/2	0	10.0	12	6	6	1	7
					Pittsburgh	10-9	5.26	26/26	0	142.0	166	90	83	40	71
51	Gonzalez, Mike	R/L	6-2/213	25	Lynchburg	0-1	5.14	5/0	0	7.0	7	9	4	5	9
					Altoona	0-0	1.23	5/0	1	7.1	4	1	1	2	10
					Pawtucket	0-0	0.00	2/0	1	1.2	2	0	0	1	2
					Nashville	0-0	4.50	7/0	2	10.0	9	5	5	4	10
					Pittsburgh	0-1	7.56	16/0	0	8.1	7	7	7	6	6
39	Grabow, John	L/L	6-2/185	25	Altoona	6-1	3.36	24/9	1	83.0	87	34	31	19	73
					Nashville	0-2	4.74	17/0	0	24.2	31	17	13	7	26
					Pittsburgh	0-0	3.60	5/0	0	5.0	6	3	2	0	9
	Johnston, Mike	L/L	6-3/200	25	Altoona	6-2	2.12	46/0	7	72.1	49	17	17	27	65
46	Meadows, Brian	R/R	6-3/236	28	Nashville	7-0	1.41	9/8	0	51.0	32	11	8	0	40
					Pittsburgh	2-1	4.72	34/7	1	76.1	91	45	40	11	38
	Oquendo, Ian	R/R	5-11/165	22	Lynchburg	10-3	3.33	20/20	0	116.1	105	46	43	33	122
					Altoona	4-0	1.96	6/6	0	36.2	36	13	8	10	23
48	Perez, Oliver	L/L	6-3/160	22	Portland	3-3	3.02	8/8	0	47.2	44	20	16	12	48
					San Diego	4-7	5.38	19/19	0	103.2	103	65	62	65	117
					Pittsburgh	0-3	5.87	5/5	0	23.0	26	15	15	12	24
	Stewart, Cory	L/L	6-4/180	24	Mobile	12-7	3.72	24/24	0	125.2	104	60	52	50	133
31	Torres, Salomon	R/R	5-11/210	32	Nashville	1-0	1.80	1/1	0	5.0	2	1	1	1	4
					Pittsburgh	7-5	4.76	41/16	2	121.0	128	65	64	42	84
	VanBenschoten, J.	R/R	6-4/215	23	Lynchburg	6-0	2.22	9/9	0	48.2	33	14	12	18	49
					Altoona	7-6	3.69	17/17	0	90.1	95	46	37	34	78
22	Vogelsong, Ryan	R/R	6-3/205	26	Nashville	12-8	4.29	26/26	0	149.0	142	75	71	54	146
					Pittsburgh	2-2	6.55	6/5	0	22.0	30	19	16	9	15
32	Wells, Kip	R/R	6-3/205	26	Pittsburgh	10-9	3.28	31/31	0	197.1	171	77	72	76	147
58	Williams, David	L/L	6-2/213	25	Nashville	7-4	4.19	16/16	0	77.1	78	44	36	30	56

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
11	Cota, Humberto	R/R	6-0/210	25	Pittsburgh	.250	10	16	1	4	1	0	0	1	1	5	0
					Nashville	.205	62	200	23	41	9	0	8	27	20	59	2
	Doumit, Ryan	B/R	6-0/200	22	Lynchburg	.275	127	458	75	126	38	1	11	77	45	79	4
30	House, J.R.	R/R	5-10/202	24	G.C. Pirates	.400	20	65	16	26	9	0	4	23	12	5	0
					Altoona	.333	20	63	12	21	6	0	2	11	5	11	0
					Pittsburgh	1.000	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Kendall, Jason	R/R	6-0/197	29	Pittsburgh	.325	150	587	84	191	29	3	6	58	49	40	8

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Castillo, Jose	R/R	5-11/185	23	Altoona	.287	126	498	68	143	24	6	5	66	40	81	19
17	Hill, Bobby	B/R	5-10/190	25	Chicago N.L.	.250	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
					Iowa	.288	92	361	53	104	23	4	6	40	37	65	8
					Nashville	.167	17	66	5	11	2	1	1	4	8	8	1
					Pittsburgh	.333	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
10	Nunez, A.O.	B/R	5-11/186	28	Pittsburgh	.248	118	311	37	77	8	7	4	35	26	53	9
55	Rivera, Carlos	L/L	6-1/245	25	Nashville	.263	72	262	28	69	18	0	9	31	13	38	3
					Pittsburgh	.221	78	95	12	21	5	0	3	10	8	28	0
	Sanchez, Freddy	R/R	5-11/185	26	Boston	.235	20	34	6	8	2	0	0	2	0	8	0
					Pawtucket	.341	58	211	46	72	17	0	5	25	31	36	8
					Nashville	.400	1	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Stynes, Chris	R/R	5-10/205	31	Colorado	.255	138	443	71	113	31	3	11	73	48	76	3
2	Wilson, Jack	R/R	6-0/193	26	Pittsburgh	.256	150	558	58	143	21	3	9	62	36	74	5

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
56	Alvarez, Tony	R/R	6-1/200	24	Nashville	.298	106	349	50	104	27	3	9	53	28	69	22
38	Bay, Jason	R/R	6-2/200	25	San Diego	.250	3	8	2	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	0
					Portland	.303	91	307	64	93	11	1	20	59	55	71	23
					Pittsburgh	.291	27	79	13	23	6	1	3	12	18	28	3
26	Davis, J.J.	R/R	6-5/240	25	Nashville	.284	122	426	68	121	29	4	26	67	35	85	23
					Pittsburgh	.200	19	35	1	7	0	0	1	4	3	13	0
59	Mackowiak, Rob	L/R	5-10/192	27	Nashville	.230	59	217	21	50	11	1	2	23	18	51	7
					Pittsburgh	.270	77	174	20	47	4	4	6	19	15	53	6
5	Redman, Tike	L/L	5-11/166	27	Nashville	.294	100	360	60	106	12	7	4	29	36	32	42
					Pittsburgh	.330	56	230	36	76	16	5	3	19	14	18	7
36	Wilson, Craig	R/R	6-2/218	27	Pittsburgh	.262	116	309	49	81	15	4	18	48	35	89	3

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Juan Acevedo, 1B-OF Daryle Ward.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

PROJECTED N.L. CENTRAL FINISH: 3RD

By Matthew Leach/MLB.com

Even as the inevitability of an early end to the season became clear, there was something hard to believe about 2003 for the Cardinals. St. Louis had enjoyed three straight trips to the playoffs, and a return trip was expected.

Now, for the first time in a long time, expectations are tempered, at least outside the organization. General manager Walt Jocketty made upgrades to the pitching staff but not the dramatic overhaul many fans had hoped for. Most of the key players return from one of the league's best offenses, but some key cogs are missing. The Cardi-nals' rivals in the N.L. Central made splashy additions, the Astros adding pitcher Andy Pettitte and the Cubs first baseman Derrek Lee.

TSNUMBER

14

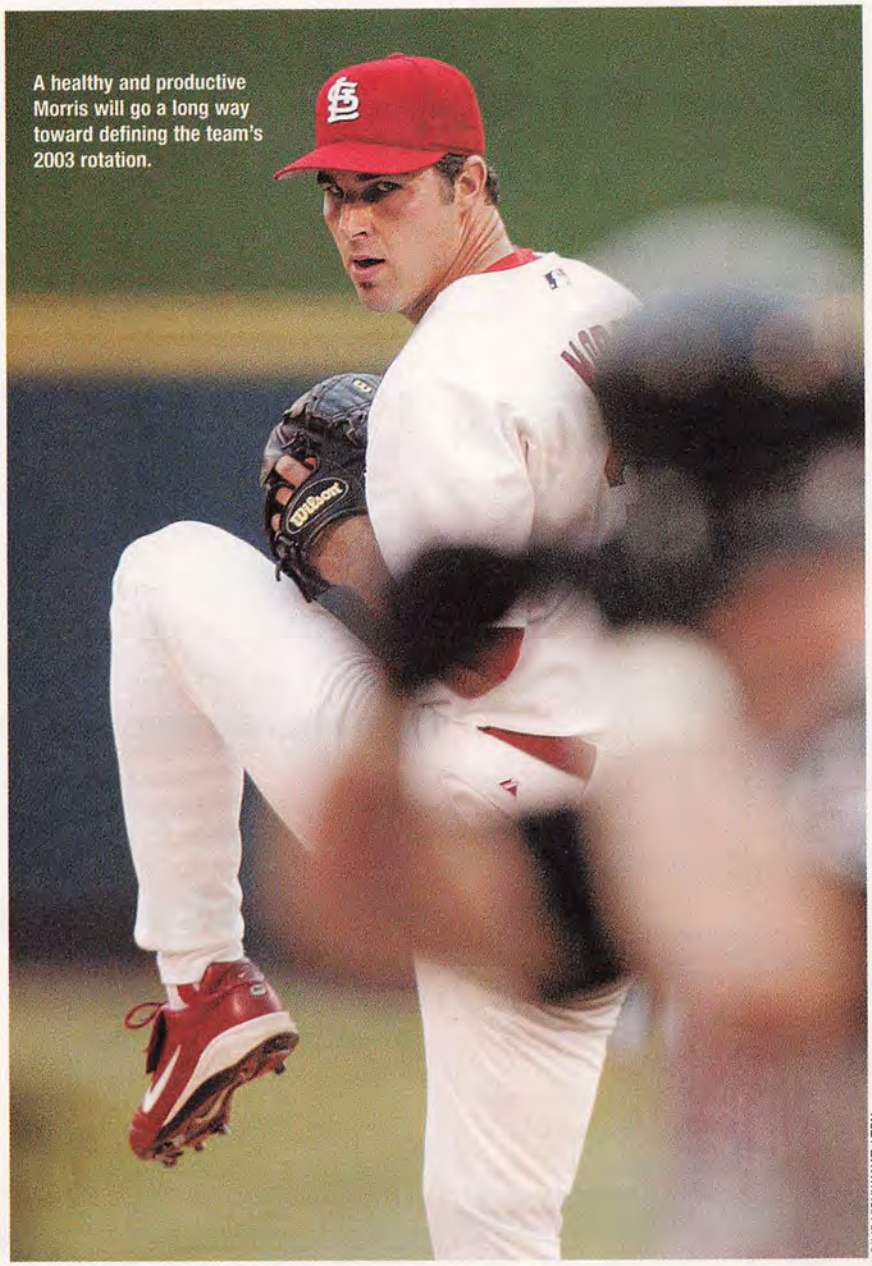
One-run wins posted by the Cards in 2003, tying for fewest in the major leagues. An often flammable bullpen let too many leads get away.

The Cardinals, who have long ruled the Central with the Astros, find themselves as underdogs in 2004. It is an unfamiliar position.

The conventional wisdom is that the Redbirds did not improve much, although they did make changes. J.D. Drew, Eli Marrero, Tino Martinez, Fernando Vina, Garrett Stephenson and Brett Tomko are gone, replaced by new faces from outside the organization. Pitchers Jeff Suppan and Jason Marquis and right fielder Reggie Sanders are the most prominent of the additions.

After several years of keeping a core group together, there will be a lot of introductions in spring training.

If Suppan, Marquis and Chris Carpenter provide a better-than-average back end of the rotation that St. Louis envisions, the Redbirds will hang right in there with the Cubs and Astros. If manager Tony La Russa, pitching coach Dave Duncan and Jocketty have to cobble together another pitching staff, it could be a long summer.



A healthy and productive Morris will go a long way toward defining the team's 2003 rotation.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

MANAGER La Russa won the 2,000th game of his career in 2003, and he continues to climb the all-time list. He has his fans and detractors, but he has won fairly consistently in the regular season.

La Russa tends to take an active role in the game, frequently double-switching and using multiple relievers. He is always willing to make an additional tactical move if he believes it gives him an advantage. It has been called micromanaging and overmanaging, and it is not likely to change.

When it comes to how he manages people, La Russa's teams are unmistakable. They take on his businesslike, stoic approach, which suits the six-month grind of a season. A La Russa team rarely gets too excited about a win or too discouraged after a loss.

La Russa and Duncan prepare meticulously. They rely on reams of information and personal experience. The Cardinals' staff does not get caught off-guard. **GRADE: B**

ROTATION Starting pitching will determine the fate of the Cardinals.

Should they get 65 healthy starts from Matt Morris and Woody Williams and even adequate work from the back of the rotation, they will be as strong as they have been in the recent past. If Morris suffers through more injuries or Williams wears down, they will struggle.

Morris endured a second consecutive dif-

ficult season in 2003, working through everything from a sore shoulder to a sprained ankle. In late May, he looked like a Cy Young favorite.

Then things started to go wrong. Morris' mechanics went amiss, his shoulder did not feel right, his velocity was down and his curveball did not have its usual bite. Morris' next good start was more than three months later. Despite all that, Morris gives no reason to believe he will not be right in 2004. He will need to be.

Williams, at age 36, contributed a career year, serving as staff ace and workhorse. He topped 200 innings for the third time in his career and once again seemed to benefit greatly from St. Louis' infield defense and Duncan's intense preparation.

It gets trickier beyond that, where pretty much everyone carries a question mark. Carpenter has not pitched in the majors since 2002, but the Cardinals expect him to carry a significant load after shoulder surgery. Marquis has been dazzling at times but has yet to fully harness his great stuff. Suppan fared well with Pittsburgh in 2003 but was roughed up after a trade to Boston.

La Russa would love to add a lefthander to his all-righthanded rotation, but the logical next starting candidate is young Danny Haren, another righthander who made his big-league debut last season, looked sharp for a while and tired in September. **GRADE: C**

BULLPEN The relief picture was not a pretty one in 2003, but the Cardinals believe they have shored things up. They better have because the bullpen's unreliability gave Morris and Williams heavy workloads, which seemed to factor into their late-season tailoff.

Closer Jason Isringhausen should be at full strength, though he seems incapable of a 70-plus-game workload, like Eric Gagne, Billy Wagner and John Smoltz. Isringhausen is as tough as any N.L. reliever short of those three, mixing a blistering fastball and a knee-buckling curve, and he is developing a cut fastball. A full season from Izzy would hide a lot of bullpen warts.

The lefthanded portion of the bullpen looks much stronger with Ray King taking over for Jeff Fassero and others as the second option. La Russa never found a complement to lefthander Steve Kline, in whom he has much faith. King should be that pitcher, providing plenty of innings, like Kline.

On the right side, Cal Eldred, like Isringhausen, can be effective if handled gently. He can rarely pitch on successive days. If he could, he might be the answer in the eighth inning. Kiko Calero and Jason Simontacchi offer the potential for spot starts. Julian Tavarez and Mike Lincoln provide depth. Rookie Evan Rust, acquired in the Martinez deal, might fit in somewhere.

Relief pitching for St. Louis should not be the disaster it was in 2003, but it should not have been then, either. **GRADE: B-**

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A return to form by RHP **Matt Morris**. The staff ace, entering the final year of his contract, battled injuries and mechanical problems last season. He should re-establish himself as an elite starter.
2. A 400-RBI infield? The projected lineup of 1B **Albert Pujols** (124), SS **Edgar Renteria** (100), 3B **Scott Rolen** (104) and 2B **Marlon Anderson** (67) combined for 395 last season.
3. More steals and hit-and-runs; less dependence on long ball. The Cards' 114 steal attempts last season were their fewest in a 162-game schedule. The 136 DPs they hit into were their most since 1980.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

They're great on the left side of the infield with (Edgar) Renteria and (Scott) Rolen. The left side is probably the best in baseball. ... I really like the things (Albert) Pujols does. He has good, good at-bats. If he struggles, it'll be short-lived. I see him being productive for a five-, six-, seven-, eight-, 10-year period of time, unless something happens to his body. ... I think Renteria's a special player. And he's a clutch player. I'd be hard-pressed to find a shortstop in the National League I'd want more. ... I think the real issue with St. Louis is pitching. I see them doing some tweaking. You get into their rotation and they've got some concerns. They've got two horses at the top (Matt Morris, Woody Williams). ... (Jason) Isringhausen is terrific when pitching, but doesn't get a chance to pitch much. The rest of their bullpen is pretty much nondescript. ... That is a terrific offensive club. You get very little rest with that team.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Marlon Anderson, 2B	**5**
Will he be able to spark this solid lineup?	
2. Edgar Renteria, SS	**7**
Clutch hitter with good average.	
3. Albert Pujols, 1B	**7**
Never gives away an at-bat; still improving.	
4. Jim Edmonds, CF	**6**
Slumps sometimes; can carry club when sharp.	
5. Scott Rolen, 3B	**8**
Complete player: power, defense, baserunning.	
6. Reggie Sanders, RF	**6**
Well-traveled, well-rounded veteran.	
7. Mike Matheny, C	**4**
Defensive specialist; will use right field.	
8. Kerry Robinson, LF	**4**
Speedy role player could finally get his chance.	
Starters	
1. Matt Morris, RH	**7**
Nasty sinker, curve; developing a changeup.	
2. Woody Williams, RH	**7**
Had career numbers but faded in second half.	
3. Chris Carpenter, RH	**4**
No full season since '01; major question mark.	
4. Jeff Suppan, RH	**4**
Plenty of innings; had Jekyll-Hyde 2003.	
5. Jason Marquis, RH	**5**
Great stuff; still trying to harness it.	
Closer	
Jason Isringhausen, RH	**6**
Added cutter to fastball/curveball combo.	
Total	**80**

CATCHING If La Russa and Duncan could draw up their ideal catcher, he would look a lot like Mike Matheny. La Russa is fond of saying that offense is a plus at catcher, and that is especially true in the case of Matheny. No one has a better defensive reputation.

There is no one thing that makes Matheny so effective behind the plate—it's the combination. He blocks balls and the plate well, and pitchers love working with him. His arm is not what it once was, but he is difficult to steal on.

Nonetheless, Matheny's offensive contributions are limited. He does not sport the power that befits his solid build, and he strikes out too often. He is, however, coming off his best year at the plate. His backup, Chris Widger, brings occasional power to the position and also provides good defense. The Cardinals do not seem concerned about offense at the position. **GRADE: B-**

INFIELD This is the strength of the team. Offensively and defensively, it is an exceptional unit, sporting three All-Stars.

MVP runner-up Albert Pujols moves from left field to first base, the final stop, team officials say, in his defensive dance around the diamond. His incredible work habits, amazingly quick wrists and hands and ferocious strength have turned him into one of the game's most-feared hitters. He still needs work defensively at first base, but team officials say he has the physical ability and dedication to become a superlative fielding first baseman.

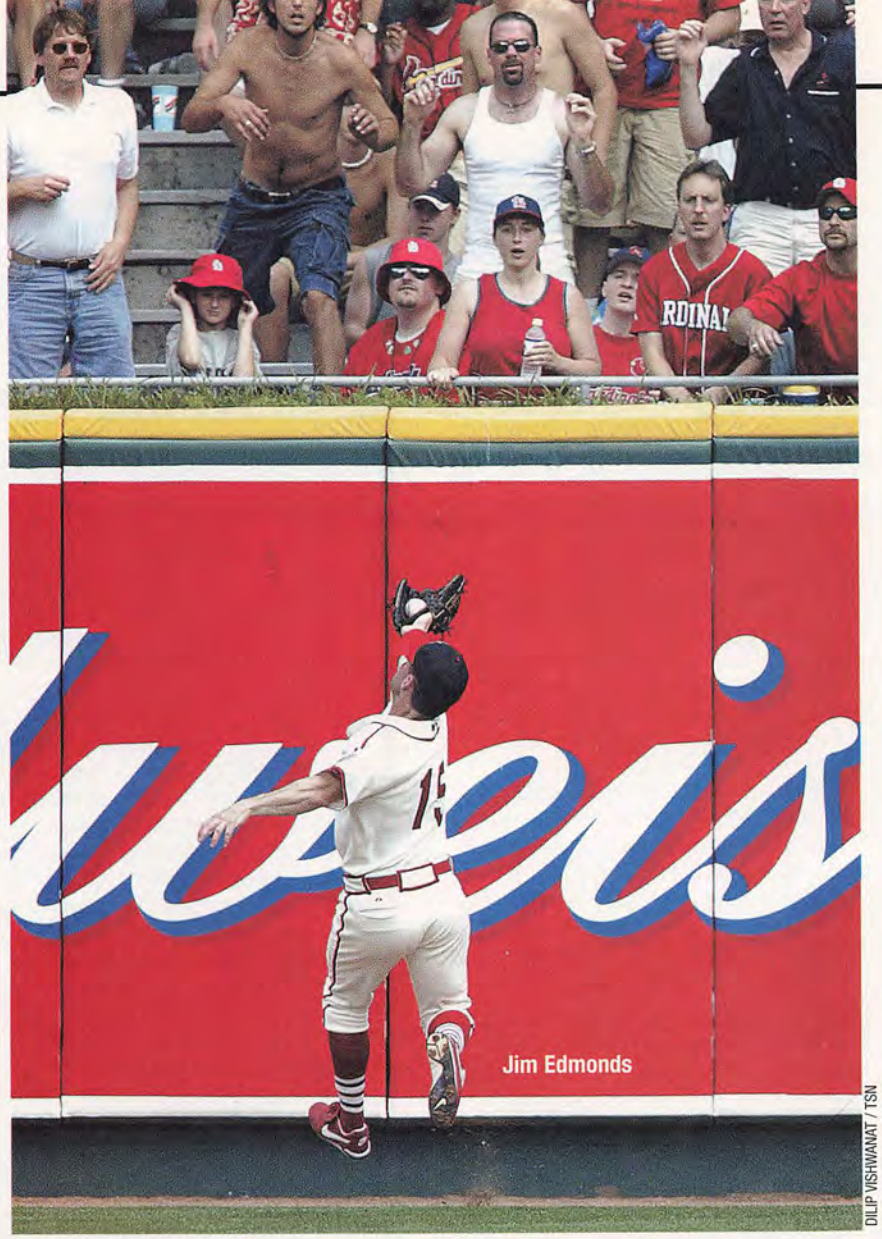
The only question mark is second base, where newcomer Marlon Anderson will battle Bo Hart for playing time. Hart showed plenty of flash after Fernando Vina and Miguel Cairo were hurt last season, but the veteran Anderson might be more productive in a much-needed role as leadoff hitter.

The left side of the infield is unparalleled in the National League for its combination of offense and defense. Shortstop Edgar

Renteria won Gold Glove and Silver Slugger awards last season. Third baseman Scott Rolen won his fifth Gold Glove but was edged out for a Silver Slugger.

Renteria hits one line drive after another and has developed into the offensive star that he was long expected to be. He may not again come up with the 47 doubles, 100 RBIs and .330 average he had in 2003, but he will be a critical part of the offense. He is tough in the clutch; it is amazing how often Renteria comes through with big hits for this team.

Rolen is the ideal third baseman. His defense is unmatched, his bat is dangerous and he is a smart player and exemplary baserunner. The only weakness is his streaky hitting. Sometimes his droughts get lengthy, but from season to season, his numbers are consistent. **GRADE: A-**



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Cardinals Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.279	.262
Runs	876	747
Hits	1580	1445
Home runs	196	169
Stolen bases	82	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.60	4.28
Complete games	9	6
Saves	41	41
Walks	508	549
Strikeouts	969	1067
Errors	77	106

WINS AND LOSSES

85-77 (3rd in N.L. Central), 48-33 at home, 37-44 on road, 17-13 vs. N.L. East, 46-38 vs. N.L. Central, 12-18 vs. N.L. West, 10-8 vs. A.L., 19-18 vs. LH starters, 66-59 vs. RH starters, 83-73 on grass, 2-4 on turf, 37-24 in daytime, 48-53 at night, 14-25 in one-run games, 7-6 in extra-inning games, 0-0-0 in doubleheaders.

Tony La Russa's record: 689-606, 8 seasons with Cardinals; 2,009-1,789, 25 seasons (White Sox, Athletics, Cardinals).

Postseason: 16-15, 4 seasons with Cardinals; 36-31, 9 seasons (White Sox, A's, Cardinals); 1 World Series championship (1989).

Team record past five years: 445-364 (.550, ranks 8th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

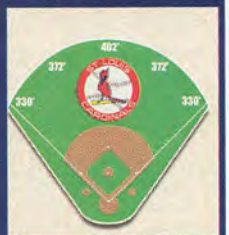
Additions: 2B Marlon Anderson (FA/Devil Rays), IF Brent Butler (FA/Rockies), IF/OF Steve Cox (FA/Japan), LHP Ray King (trade/Braves), RHP Mike Lincoln (FA/Pirates), RHP Jason Marquis (trade/Braves), OF Reggie Sanders (FA/Pirates), RHP Jeff Suppan (FA/Red Sox), RHP Julian Tavarez (FA/Pirates).

Losses: 2B Miguel Cairo (FA/Yankees), RHP Mike DeJean (FA/Orioles), OF J.D. Drew (trade/Braves), LHP Jeff Fassero (FA), C Joe Girardi (FA), LHP Sterling Hitchcock (FA/Padres), C/OF Eli Marrero (trade/Braves), 1B Tino Martinez (trade/Devil Rays), LHP Lance Painter (FA), OF Eduardo Perez (FA/Devil Rays), RHP Russ Springer (FA), RHP Garrett Stephenson (FA), RHP Brett Tomko (FA), 2B Fernando Vina (FA/Tigers).

Busch Stadium

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 50,354
Ticket information: 314-421-2400

Spring training: Roger Dean Stadium (Jupiter, Fla.)
Ticket information: 561-966-3309



OUTFIELD Center fielder Jim Edmonds will not be flanked by familiar faces. The club traded right fielder J.D. Drew to Atlanta in the offseason and moved Pujols to the infield.

That left a big hole in left field, where a platoon of speedy Kerry Robinson, who bats and throws lefthanded, and So Taguchi, a righthanded swinger, may be a temporary answer. Greg Vaughn, who signed a minor league contract, could sneak into the picture.

After Drew was dealt, the Cardinals acted quickly and signed Reggie Sanders as a replacement. He does not make anyone's list of potential MVPs, but Sanders contributes in pretty much every phase. He provides solid power, above-average defense and some speed on the bases. Like Drew, he has had some trouble staying healthy.

With Edmonds, you know what you are getting. He is a great showman and exceptional in the field. He also is the kind of hitter who can put the team on his back for weeks at a time.

The problem with Edmonds is that his offense comes and goes according to his swing. Edmonds' swing gets out of whack sometimes, and when it does, he can go into nasty funks. But nobody, not even Pujols, has two-week stretches hotter than Edmonds' best.

Robinson performed ably as a part-timer last season, but he might be stretched to 400-plus at-bats as the main left fielder—far more than he has ever had in a major league season. Robinson has the speed to be an offense-sparking leadoff man, but he will have to become more patient at the plate and find ways to get on base. **GRADE: B-**

Matthew Leach covers the Cardinals for MLB.com.

Cardinals Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 MIL	6 MIL	7 MIL	8 MIL	9 ARI	10 ARI
11 ARI	12 HOU	13 HOU	14 HOU	15	16 COL	17 COL
18 COL	19	20 HOU	21 HOU	22 HOU	23 MIL	24 MIL
25 MIL	26	27 PHI	28 PHI	29 PHI	30 CHC	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 CHC
2 CHC	3 CHC	4 PHI	5 PHI	6 PHI	7 MON	8 MON
9 MON	10	11 ATL	12 ATL	13 ATL	14 FLA	15 FLA
16 FLA	17	18 NYM	19 NYM	20 NYM	21 CHC	22 CHC
23 CHC	24	25 PIT	26 PIT	27 PIT	28 HOU	29 HOU
30 HOU	31 PIT					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 PIT	2 PIT	3 PIT	4 HOU	5 HOU
6 HOU	7 CHC	8 CHC	9 CHC	10 CHC	11 TEX	12 TEX
13 TEX	14	15 OAK	16 OAK	17 OAK	18 CIN	19 CIN
20 CIN	21	22 CHC	23 CHC	24 CHC	25 KC	26 KC
27 KC	28 PIT	29 PIT	30 PIT			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 SEA	3 SEA
4 SEA	5 CIN	6 CIN	7 CIN	8	9 CHC	10 CHC
11 CHC	12	13 All-Star	14	15 CIN	16 CIN	17 CIN
18 CIN	19 CHC	20 CHC	21 MIL	22 MIL	23 SF	24 SF
25 SF	26 CIN	27 CIN	28 CIN	29	30 SF	31 SF

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 SF	2	3 MON	4 MON	5 MON	6 NYM	7 NYM
8 NYM	9	10 FLA	11 FLA	12 FLA	13 ATL	14 ATL
15 ATL	16 CIN	17 CIN	18 CIN	19 PIT	20 PIT	21 PIT
22 PIT	23	24 CIN	25 CIN	26 CIN	27 PIT	28 PIT
29 PIT	30	31 SD				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 SD	2 SD	3 LA	4 LA
5 LA	6 SD	7 SD	8 SD	9	10 LA	11 LA
12 LA	13	14 HOU	15 HOU	16 HOU	17 ARI	18 ARI
19 ARI	20 MIL	21 MIL	22 MIL	23 MIL	24 COL	25 COL
26 COL	27 HOU	28 HOU	29 HOU	30 MIL		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 MIL	2 MIL
3 MIL	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Tony La Russa (10). Coaches: Dave Duncan (18), Marty Mason (38), Dave McKay (39), Mitchell Page (12), Joe Pettini (24), Jose Oquendo (11).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
66	Ankiel, Rick	L/L	6-1/210	24	Tennessee	2-6	6.29	20/10	0	54.1	45	42	38	49	64
40	Calero, Kiko	R/R	6-1/180	29	St. Louis	1-1	2.82	26/1	1	38.1	29	12	12	20	51
29	Carpenter, Chris	R/R	6-6/215	28				Did Not Play							
23	Eldred, Cal	R/R	6-4/235	36	St. Louis	7-4	3.74	62/0	8	67.1	62	32	28	31	67
50	Haren, Danny	R/R	6-5/220	23	Tennessee	6-0	0.82	8/8	0	55.0	36	8	5	6	49
					Memphis	2-1	4.93	8/8	0	45.2	50	25	25	8	35
					St. Louis	3-7	5.08	14/14	0	72.2	84	44	41	22	43
44	Isringhausen, J.	R/R	6-3/230	31	Tennessee	0-0	0.00	2/2	0	2.0	1	0	0	0	3
					St. Louis	0-1	2.36	40/0	22	42.0	31	14	11	18	41
77	Journell, Jimmy	R/R	6-4/205	26	Memphis	6-6	3.92	40/7	5	78.0	80	38	34	32	70
					St. Louis	0-0	6.00	7/0	0	9.0	10	7	6	11	8
	King, Ray	L/L	6-1/247	30	Atlanta	3-4	3.51	80/0	0	59.0	46	30	23	27	43
49	Kline, Steve	B/L	6-1/215	31	St. Louis	5-5	3.82	78/0	3	63.2	56	29	27	30	31
	Lincoln, Mike	R/R	6-2/213	28	Nashville	1-1	0.71	8/0	0	12.2	8	2	1	4	9
					Pittsburgh	3-4	5.20	36/0	5	36.1	38	22	21	13	28
	Marquis, Jason	L/R	6-1/210	25	Richmond	8-4	3.35	15/15	0	94.0	93	40	35	34	75
					Atlanta	0-0	5.53	21/2	1	40.2	43	27	25	18	19
35	Morris, Matt	R/R	6-5/220	29	St. Louis	11-8	3.76	27/27	0	172.1	164	76	72	39	120
	Narveson, Chris	L/L	6-3/180	22	Palm Beach	7-7	2.86	15/14	0	91.1	83	34	29	19	65
					Tennessee	4-3	3.00	10/10	0	57.0	56	21	19	26	34
	Parrott, Rhett	R/R	6-2/190	24	Tennessee	8-9	3.27	21/21	0	124.0	122	52	45	40	112
					Memphis	2-3	3.54	7/7	0	40.2	39	16	16	19	25
60	Pearce, Josh	R/R	6-3/220	26	West Palm Beach	1-4	3.21	6/5	0	28.0	28	10	10	2	15
					Tennessee	2-1	4.09	5/5	0	33.0	34	15	15	3	20
					Memphis	3-3	4.08	10/9	0	46.1	51	22	21	8	27
					St. Louis	0-0	3.00	7/0	0	9.0	11	3	3	2	4
	Rust, Evan	R/R	6-1/210	25	Orlando	1-3	2.65	30/0	11	34.0	28	13	10	15	35
					Durham	2-2	3.25	26/0	1	36.0	32	13	13	10	26
	Ryan, Jason	B/R	6-3/195	28	Memphis	8-6	2.70	29/28	0	189.2	195	63	57	45	110
46	Simontacchi, J.	R/R	6-2/190	30	St. Louis	9-5	5.56	46/16	1	126.1	153	82	78	41	74
37	Suppan, Jeff	R/R	6-2/220	29	Pittsburgh	10-7	3.57	21/21	0	141.0	147	57	56	31	78
					Boston	3-4	5.57	11/10	0	63.0	70	41	39	20	32
	Tavarez, Julian	R/L	6-2/195	30	Pittsburgh	3-3	3.66	64/0	11	83.2	75	37	34	27	39
	Wainwright, Adam	R/R	6-8/205	22	Greenville	10-8	3.37	27/27	0	149.2	133	59	56	37	128
19	Williams, Woody	R/R	6-0/200	37	St. Louis	18-9	3.87	34/33	0	220.2	220	101	95	55	153

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
22	Matheny, Mike	R/R	6-3/220	33	St. Louis	.252	141	441	43	111	18	2	8	47	44	81	1
32	Widger, Chris	R/R	6-2/210	32	Memphis	.239	23	71	8	17	7	0	2	10	7	12	1
					St. Louis	.235	44	102	9	24	9	0	0	14	6	20	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Anderson, Marlon	L/R	5-11/200	30	Tampa Bay	.270	146	482	59	130	27	3	6	67	41	60	19
	Butler, Brent	R/R	6-0/180	26	Colorado	.211	37	90	13	19	3	1	1	4	7	13	1
					Colo. Springs	.332	54	205	37	68	19	1	6	27	19	20	0
	Cox, Steve	L/L	6-4/225	29				Played in Japan									
	Gall, John	R/R	6-0/195	25	Tennessee	.327	12	52	6	17	1	0	3	12	3	4	0
					Memphis	.312	123	461	62	144	24	1	16	73	39	56	5
31	Hart, Bo	R/R	5-11/170	27	Memphis	.297	67	266	30	79	14	2	7	31	15	55	4
					St. Louis	.277	77	296	46	82	13	5	4	28	12	64	3
	Luna, Hector	R/R	6-1/170	24	Akron	.297	127	462	87	137	19	2	2	38	48	64	17
5	Pujols, Albert	R/R	6-3/225	24	St. Louis	.359	157	591	137	212	51	1	43	124	79	65	5
3	Renteria, Edgar	R/R	6-1/200	28	St. Louis	.330	157	587	96	194	47	1	13	100	65	54	34
27	Rolen, Scott	R/R	6-4/240	28	St. Louis	.286	154	559	98	160	49	1	28	104	82	104	13

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
15	Edmonds, Jim	L/L	6-1/212	33	St. Louis	.275	137	447	89	123	32	2	39	89	77	127	1
0	Robinson, Kerry	L/L	6-0/175	30	Memphis	.344	16	61	14	21	2	1	0	3	1	7	5
					St. Louis	.250	116	208	19	52	6	3	1	16	8	27	6
	Sanders, Reggie	R/R	6-1/205	36	Pittsburgh	.285	130	453	74	129	27	4	31	87	38	110	15
99	Taguchi, So	R/R	5-10/163	34	Memphis	.256	90	258	31	66	8	2	2	24	22	36	14
					St. Louis	.259	43	54	9	14	3	1	3	13	4	11	0

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Alan Benes, OF Emil Brown, RHP Matt Duff, IF Wilson Delgado, OF Ray Lankford, 1B Luis Ortiz, OF Chris Prieto, OF Mark Quinn, OF Greg Vaughn.

SAN DIEGO PADRES

PROJECTED N.L. WEST FINISH: 2ND

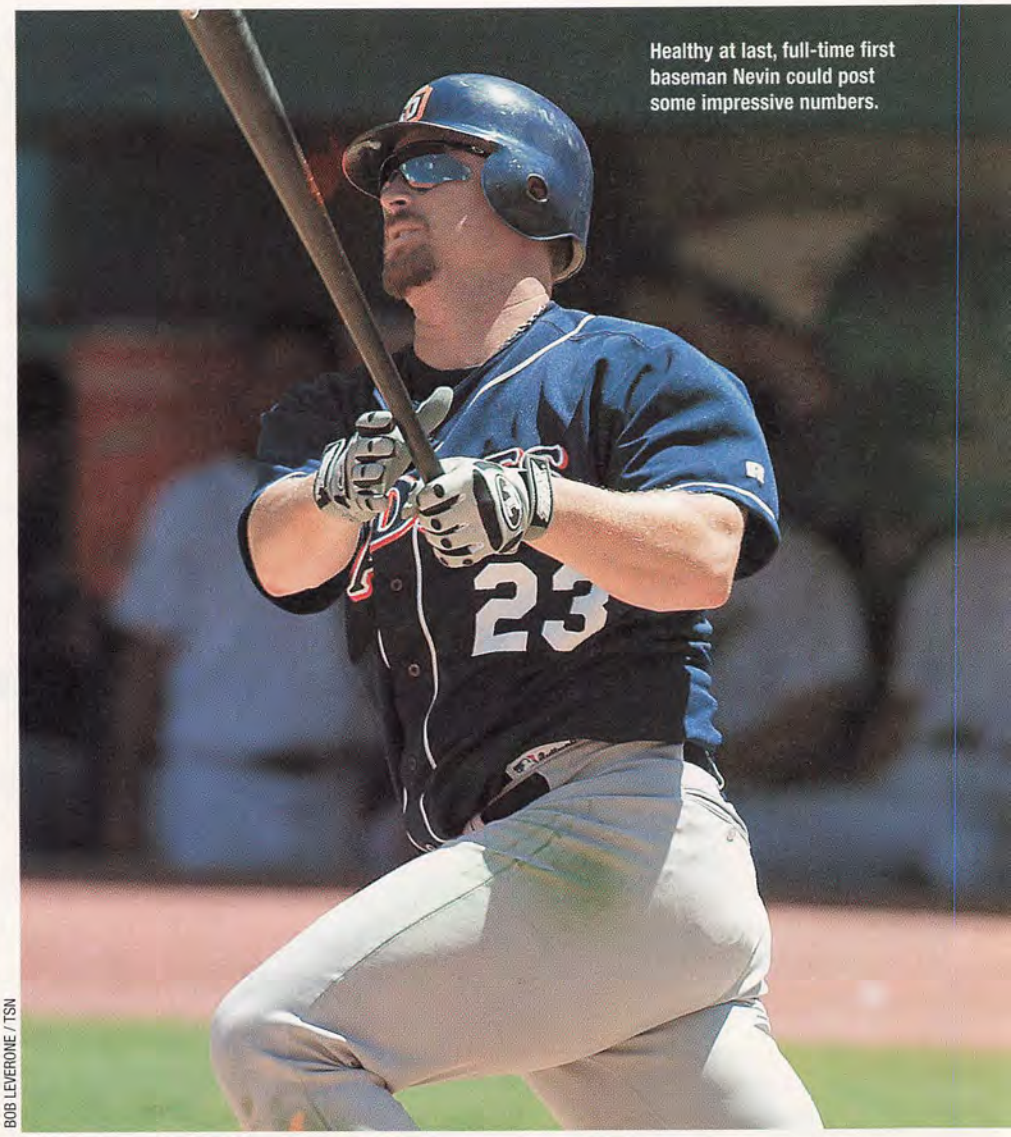
By Mike Scarr/MLB.com

The Padres are optimistic about the upcoming season, and not just because they have a new ballpark.

After five straight losing seasons and a payroll to match, they have added dollars to the budget and are banking that will add wins to the record.

General manager Kevin Towers went into the offseason with four keys in mind: re-sign reliever Trevor Hoffman, find a front-line catcher, bolster the bullpen and obtain a No. 1 starter.

He accomplished all of those goals, without the luxury of an open checkbook, and is comfortable with the lineup, feeling it will produce offensively while his predominantly young rotation begins to realize its potential.



Healthy at last, full-time first baseman Nevin could post some impressive numbers.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

MANAGER Probably the greatest strength the Padres have is on the bench.

Bruce Bochy, a former journeyman catcher, is entering his 10th season as Padres manager. He knows what it takes to get to the majors and remain there, and he has incorporated those lessons, forming a strong rapport with his players.

His understated but authoritative style allows ballplayers to rise and fall on their merits. Bochy is good with a veteran ballclub because his talents are in managing people as opposed to molding them to fit a certain profile. His division titles in 1996 and '98 and World Series appearance in '98 are testimony to that, but five straight losing seasons have begun to rub some of the luster from his accomplishments and raise questions about his future.

The last five years, though, have been more a reflection of a bargain-basement payroll and subsequent lack of talent than the effectiveness of the manager. The best evidence of Bochy's skills was the 2003 season, in which the Padres languished near the bottom of the N.L. most of the year but played hard in every game.

Gamewise, Bochy makes the necessary strategic moves but is not strictly a by-the-book guy. He will follow his instincts on occasion and will sometimes go with the hot hand.

Bochy, who is well-liked in the organization, needs to produce this season because the club will be under more scrutiny in the new ballpark. **GRADE: B+**

ROTATION Once considered a foundation for the future of the franchise, the starting rotation took some hits last season and did not take the strides that were expected.

The Padres had hung their hopes on a nucleus of young arms that included righthanders Brian Lawrence, Adam Eaton and Jake Peavy and lefthander Oliver Perez. But 2003 was basically one long growing pain, and the ballclub will enter 2004 with fewer expectations and a more realistic approach.

TSNUMBER

611

Walks allowed by Padres pitchers last season. Too many runners led to too many big innings. The team lacks the offense to counter.

Perez was traded last August to Pittsburgh in the deal that landed outfielder Brian Giles. Lawrence had a tough stretch last season when his signature sinker escaped him. Early in August, he appeared to be a candidate for 20 losses before winning four of his last six starts.

Eaton struggled to find consistency in his first full season back from elbow surgery. In one outing he could be dominant; in others he would lose command. But he also reached a career high with nine wins and gained confidence while pitching without pain.

Peavy was the lone bright spot among the three. Pitching in his first full major league season, he doubled his 2002 win total to 12.

The Padres remain confident that three-

some will be successful and that Peavy can be the future ace. While he is trying to take that step, the No. 1 starter role falls to free-agent signee David Wells, the well-traveled 40-year-old lefthander who is returning to his hometown.

The always-colorful, sometimes-unpredictable Wells, who won 15 games last season for the Yankees and has posted 200 career wins, will be an unlikely tutor for the Padres youngsters. Another veteran, lefthander Sterling Hitchcock, will return to San Diego at the bottom of the rotation.

Kevin Jarvis, who was 4-0 in July but did not record another victory and finished 4-8, has been on the trading block for months. He could get some starts if he stays. Ismael Valdes, 8-8 for Texas last season, also could get an audition. **GRADE: C+**

BULLPEN The Padres' relief corps will once again have a familiar ring.

Hoffman, who has recorded 350 of his 352 saves with San Diego, will return as the closer.

After two shoulder surgeries—the first to repair the rotator cuff and torn labrum in his right shoulder, the second to shave a tip from his collarbone—Hoffman spent most of last season in a slow and deliberate rehabilitation program. When he returned in September, he said he felt no discomfort in his shoulder and felt better than he had in a few years.

Hoffman did not get a save in nine outings but appeared as confident as ever. Hoffman relies on control, superior focus and a changeup that makes batters look silly.

In Hoffman's absence, Bochy was at a severe disadvantage in the late innings because no one stepped up. That changed when the club acquired Rod Beck on June 2. He was 20-for-20 in save opportunities.

Beck, who has 286 saves, was coming back from elbow surgery and proved he could still get big leaguers out in pressure situations, albeit with stuff that rarely got over 80 mph. The Padres retained Beck as a setup man to Hoffman with the occasional opportunity to close.

The Padres will be nearly unbeatable with a lead after seven innings. They also signed Akinori Otsuka, a righthander who had 17 saves for the Chunichi Dragons last season. Righthanders Jay Witasick and Scott Linebrink and lefthander Kevin Walker also return. **GRADE: A**

CATCHING An offensive and defensive liability last season, the catching position will be the opposite for the Padres in 2004.

Towers made his biggest deal of the offseason here, bringing in Ramon Hernandez from Oakland. The Padres also received outfielder Terrence Long and gave up outfielder Mark Kotsay.

Since Ben Davis was sent packing to Seattle in December 2001, the Padres have been without a bona fide starting catcher. Among the 2003 Padres catchers, Gary Bennett received strong marks on his game-calling skills, but his arm and bat showed he was not the answer at the position.

Hernandez, who will be 28 in May, hit .273 with 21 homers and 78 RBIs last season and threw out 36 of 109 potential basestealers. He also was the main man behind the plate as the A's put together their fine staff. Towers says Hernandez will be able to do the same thing for Lawrence, Eaton and Peavy.

Humberto Quintero appears to be in line for a backup job. **GRADE: B**

INFIELD A lineup of Phil Nevin at first, Mark Loretta at second, Sean Burroughs at third and Khalil Greene at shortstop should get the bulk of the playing time.

Nevin's annual position swaps will be a thing of the past. He takes over for Ryan Klesko, who moves back to the outfield. Nevin will not make a Gold Glove run at the position, but he will get more comfortable there as the season progresses. He will provide some comfort to his teammates and manager at the plate.

Nevin will report to spring training 100 percent healthy for the first time in three years and he appears ready to have a big year offensively, especially if speculation that new Petco Park will favor hitters proves true.

When the Padres signed Loretta last offseason, he was seen as a relatively inexpensive solution at second. What he became was the club's MVP. Loretta posted a .990 fielding percentage to eventual winner Luis Castillo's .986 and hit an identical .314, driving in 72 runs to Castillo's 39. Loretta lacks the speed and range of Castillo, but he makes up for it with smart and steady play.

The Padres have a future All-Star at third, and Burroughs is close to having a breakthrough season. After an injury-plagued and mistake-prone rookie year in 2002, Burroughs put his exceptional work ethic and natural ability together and became a solid third baseman. He batted leadoff at the end of the season and will return there barring a trade or free-agent signing.

Greene will get a chance to prove he is a big-league shortstop. He finished the season

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. At least 15 wins for RHP **Jake Peavy**. A streaky Peavy was 12-11 in his first full major league season and learned how to pitch when he didn't have his best stuff.
2. 3B **Sean Burroughs** to hit .300. Burroughs is making adjustments and learning how to not get himself out. Greater knowledge of the strike zone and N.L. pitchers will help him raise his average.
3. A healthy **Phil Nevin** to hit 40 or more homers. Now 100 percent and playing first base, Nevin will be able to focus on his offense. He will recapture the swing that made him a productive hitter.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

If they all stay healthy, they have a good shot at being one of the top five (pitching) staffs in baseball. ... If they get runners on base, they can score runs. ... I see Phil Nevin hitting 40 homers, 80 to 100 RBIs and hitting around .300. Phil is still a bit too much of a free swinger. He can look bad on some pitches but he'll have more protection in the lineup this year. He doesn't miss many good pitches. ... Brian Giles brings age and leadership. Just having him in the lineup makes them a better team. ... Defense could hurt the Padres. They need help on the infield and they need a center fielder. I suggest they get a quality shortstop. ... Some of their (pitchers) have trouble with control. I don't think that (Petco Park) will hold the ball if they don't keep the ball down. ... The dimensions (at Petco) sound small to me, but you don't know until you get in there. ... (The Padres) should finish around .500 behind San Francisco and Los Angeles.

GRADING THE LINEUP

Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Sean Burroughs, 3B	**5**
Can hit to all fields; still developing power.	
2. Mark Loretta, 2B	**5**
Makes contact; can hit in any count.	
3. Brian Giles, CF	**7**
All-field threat; lefties occasionally a problem.	
4. Phil Nevin, 1B	**6**
All-field power; breaking balls away a concern.	
5. Ryan Klesko, RF	**7**
Good power; will go to the opposite field.	
6. Xavier Nady, LF	**5**
Jury is still out on this hot-and-cold prospect.	
7. Ramon Hernandez, C	**6**
Huge improvement for Padres.	
8. Khalil Greene, SS	**4**
Good bat speed with occasional power.	
Starters	
1. David Wells, LH	**6**
Crafty veteran takes on new role as staff leader.	
2. Jake Peavy, RH	**5**
Good stuff; needs to induce more ground balls.	
3. Brian Lawrence, RH	**4**
Sinkerball pitcher; backdoor slider is out pitch.	
4. Adam Eaton, RH	**5**
Four solid pitches; needs more consistency.	
5. Sterling Hitchcock, LH	**4**
Has had postseason success.	
Closer	
Trevor Hoffman, RH	**7**
Excellent control with superb changeup.	
Total	**76**

with the Padres after starting the year in Class AA.

If Greene falters or needs a breather, Ramon Vazquez, who is moving into the utility role from starting shortstop, will get the call. Vazquez also will relieve at second and veteran Jeff Cirillo is available to spell Burroughs at third. **GRADE: B**

OUTFIELD The outfield will have Giles for an entire season, but it also will be without Kotsay in center field—and that will leave a defensive gap.

Though he suffered throughout the season because of a bulging disk in his lower back, Kotsay still proved valuable in the outfield last year. Giles is the leading candidate to replace him. Giles can play the position, but he is more suited to left or right field. Long also is a center field candidate if he sticks around.

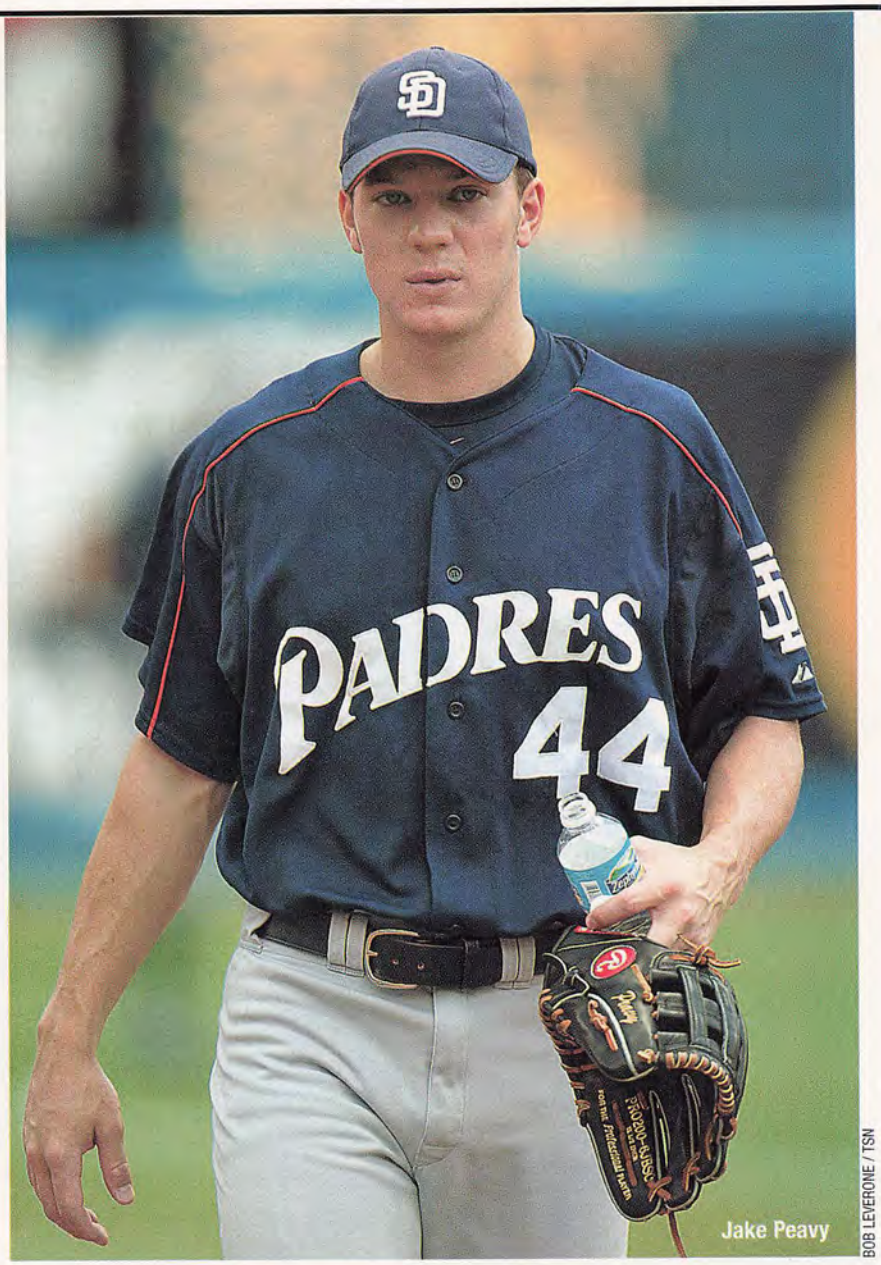
Klesko is back in the outfield, where he played most of the time when he was with the Braves. He has played there only sporadically in his four seasons with the Padres. Klesko is more comfortable at first base but athletic enough to make the adjustment back to the outfield.

The bigger question involves his health. Klesko's season ended in September last year, and he underwent surgery on his right shoulder. The procedure was similar to the one Hoffman had; doctors shaved the tip of his collarbone. Klesko, who has hit more than 20 homers in eight of the last nine seasons, is an essential part of the offense.

Xavier Nady returns to the mix and will play whichever corner Klesko doesn't or be the fourth outfielder if the Padres sign a center fielder. Nady won the right field job last spring and opened the season hot; he was even chosen N.L. rookie of the month in May. But after a precipitous decline, Nady was back in the minors in July. The Padres remain high on Nady, who projects as a solid major league hitter with power to all fields.

Long will be available to spot start at all three outfield positions and Brian Buchanan will be available for spot outfield and first base duty. **GRADE: C+**

Mike Scarr covers the Padres for MLB.com.



Jake Peavy

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Padres Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.261	.262
Runs	678	747
Hits	1442	1445
Home runs	128	169
Stolen bases	76	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	4.87	4.28
Complete games	2	6
Saves	31	41
Walks	611	549
Strikeouts	1091	1067
Errors	102	106

WINS AND LOSSES

64-98 (5th in N.L. West), 35-46 at home, 29-52 on road, 10-22 vs. N.L. East, 13-23 vs. N.L. Central, 33-43 vs. N.L. West, 8-10 vs. A.L., 17-30 vs. LH starters, 47-68 vs. RH starters, 62-93 on grass, 2-5 on turf, 19-31 in daytime, 45-67 at night, 21-20 in one-run games, 8-8 in extra-inning games, 0-0-1 in doubleheaders.
Bruce Bochy's record: 694-746, 9 seasons with Padres.
Postseason: 7-10, 2 seasons with Padres.
Team record past five years: 359-451 (.443, ranks 24th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: IF Jeff Cirillo (trade/Mariners), C Ramon Hernandez (trade/Athletics), LHP Sterling Hitchcock (FA/Cardinals), OF Terrence Long (trade/Athletics), RHP Akinori Otsuka (FA/Japan), RHP Ismael Valdes (FA/Rangers), LHP David Wells (FA/Yankees), C Tom Wilson (waivers/Blue Jays).
Losses: C Gary Bennett (FA/Brewers), RHP Luther Hackman (FA/Indians), IF Dave Hansen (trade/Mariners), RHP Kevin Jarvis (trade/Mariners), OF Mark Kotsay (trade/Athletics), OF Gary Matthews Jr. (waivers/Braves), LHP Mike Matthews (FA).

MEDIA

Radio: XPRS-AM (1090), KURS-AM (1040, Spanish)
Cable TV: Channel 4 Padres
Website: padres.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Portland (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Mobile (Southern)
Class A: Lake Elsinore (California), Fort Wayne (Midwest), Eugene (Northwest)
Rookie: Arizona (Arizona)

Petco Park

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 42,000
Ticket information: 888-697-2373

Spring training: Peoria Stadium (Peoria, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 623-878-4337, 800-409-1511

Padres Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 LA	6 LA	7 LA	8 SF	9	10 SF
11 SF	12	13 LA	14 LA	15 LA	16 ARI	17 ARI
18 ARI	19 SF	20 SF	21 SF	22 SF	23 ARI	24 ARI
25 ARI	26 MON	27 MON	28 MON	29 MON	30 NYM	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 NYM
2 NYM	3	4 ATL	5 ATL	6 ATL	7 FLA	8 FLA
9 FLA	10	11 CIN	12 CIN	13 CIN	14 CHC	15 CHC
16 CHC	17	18 PIT	19 PIT	20 PIT	21 PHI	22 PHI
23 PHI	24	25 COL	26 COL	27 COL	28 MIL	29 MIL
30 MIL	31 COL					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 COL	2 COL	3	4 MIL	5 MIL
6 MIL	7	8 BOS	9 BOS	10 BOS	11 NYY	12 NYY
13 NYY	14	15 TB	16 TB	17 TB	18 TOR	19 TOR
20 TOR	21 ARI	22 ARI	23 ARI	24	25 SEA	26 SEA
27 SEA	28 ARI	29 ARI	30 ARI			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 ARI	2 KC	3 KC
4 KC	5 HOU	6 HOU	7 HOU	8 COL	9 COL	10 COL
11 COL	12	13 All-Star	14	15	16 HOU	17 HOU
18 HOU	19 COL	20 COL	21 SF	22 SF	23 LA	24 LA
25 LA	26 SF	27 SF	28 SF	29 SF	30 LA	31 LA

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 LA	2	3 PHI	4 PHI	5 PHI	6 PIT	7 PIT
8 PIT	9	10 CHC	11 CHC	12 CHC	13 CIN	14 CIN
15 CIN	16 ATL	17 ATL	18 ATL	19	20 FLA	21 FLA
22 FLA	23 NYM	24 NYM	25 NYM	26 NYM	27 MON	28 MON
29 MON	30	31 STL				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 STL	2 STL	3 COL	4 COL
5 COL	6 STL	7 STL	8 STL	9 COL	10 COL	11 COL
12 COL	13 LA	14 LA	15 LA	16 LA	17 SF	18 SF
19 SF	20	21 LA	22 LA	23 LA	24 ARI	25 ARI
26 ARI	27	28 SF	29 SF	30 SF		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 ARI	2 ARI
3 ARI	4	5	6	7	8	9

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Bruce Bochy (15). Coaches: Darrel Akerfelds (48), Darren Balsley, Davey Lopes (24), Dave Magadan (12), Tony Muser (40), Rob Picciolo (5).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
47	Beck, Rod	R/R	6-1/235	35	Iowa	1-1	0.59	21/0	4	30.2	25	3	2	7	26
					San Diego	3-2	1.78	36/0	20	35.1	25	7	7	11	32
	Bruback, Matt	R/R	6-7/215	25	Iowa	6-8	3.96	20/19	0	125.0	120	65	55	33	90
					Nashville	2-2	4.91	4/4	0	22.0	18	12	12	12	16
					Portland	2-0	2.61	2/2	0	10.1	12	3	3	4	6
54	Bynum, Mike	L/L	6-4/200	26	Portland	7-12	4.81	24/23	0	125.1	130	76	67	60	106
					San Diego	1-4	8.75	13/5	0	36.0	44	35	35	15	35
53	Eaton, Adam	R/R	6-2/190	26	San Diego	9-12	4.08	31/31	0	183.0	173	91	83	68	146
	Germano, Justin	R/R	6-2/190	21	Lake Elsinore	9-5	4.23	19/19	0	110.2	127	61	52	25	78
					Mobile	2-5	4.34	9/9	0	58.0	60	34	28	13	44
	Hitchcock, Sterling	L/L	6-0/200	32	New York A.L.	1-3	5.44	27/1	0	49.2	57	33	30	18	36
					St. Louis	5-1	3.79	8/6	0	38.0	34	17	16	14	32
51	Hoffman, Trevor	R/R	6-0/205	36	Lake Elsinore	0-0	0.00	3/0	0	3.0	2	0	0	0	4
					San Diego	0-0	2.00	9/0	0	9.0	7	2	2	3	11
39	Howard, Ben	R/R	6-2/190	25	Portland	7-9	4.55	22/22	0	130.2	118	69	66	49	68
					San Diego	1-3	3.63	6/6	0	34.2	31	17	14	15	24
50	Lawrence, Brian	R/R	6-0/195	27	San Diego	10-15	4.19	33/33	0	210.2	206	106	98	57	116
38	Linebrink, Scott	R/R	6-2/200	27	New Orleans	0-2	2.70	2/2	0	10.0	8	3	3	5	6
					Houston	1-1	4.26	9/6	0	31.2	38	15	15	14	17
					San Diego	2-1	2.82	43/0	0	60.2	55	22	19	22	51
	Otsuka, Akinori	R/R	5-11/200	32				Played in Japan							
	Oxspring, Chris	L/R	6-1/180	26	Mobile	10-6	2.92	40/18	0	135.2	106	47	44	62	129
44	Peavy, Jake	R/R	6-1/180	22	San Diego	12-11	4.11	32/32	0	194.2	173	94	89	82	156
	Sweeney, Brian	R/R	6-2/185	29	Tacoma	11-10	4.28	29/21	0	141.0	165	80	67	32	115
					Seattle	0-0	1.93	5/0	0	9.1	7	2	2	1	7
	Szuminski, Jason	R/R	6-5/225	25	Daytona	2-1	3.65	13/0	0	24.2	29	12	10	9	23
					West Tenn	7-4	2.26	29/3	2	59.2	51	19	15	19	45
					Iowa	0-0	3.55	3/2	0	12.2	11	5	5	1	5
45	Tankersley, Dennis	R/R	6-2/185	25	San Diego	0-1	...	1/1	0	.0	3	7	7	4	0
					Portland	8-11	4.65	27/27	0	151.0	149	82	78	67	148
	Tucker, Rusty	R/L	6-1/190	23	Mobile	2-6	3.74	51/0	28	53.0	49	26	22	31	63
	Valdes, Ismael	R/R	6-4/225	30	Frisco	1-2	2.03	3/3	0	13.1	12	5	3	2	6
					Texas	8-8	6.10	22/22	0	115.0	148	83	78	29	47
56	Walker, Kevin	L/L	6-4/190	27	Lake Elsinore	0-0	13.50	4/0	0	4.0	6	6	6	2	3
					Portland	3-1	4.08	34/1	0	46.1	53	24	21	10	43
					San Diego	0-0	5.40	11/0	0	6.2	5	4	4	5	5
	Wells, David	L/L	6-4/230	40	New York A.L.	15-7	4.14	31/30	0	213.0	242	101	98	20	101
46	Witasick, Jay	R/R	6-4/235	31	Lake Elsinore	0-0	5.79	4/0	0	4.2	6	4	3	0	7
					Portland	0-0	3.00	5/0	1	6.0	4	2	2	1	8
					San Diego	3-7	4.53	46/0	2	45.2	42	24	23	25	42

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
	Hernandez, Ra.	R/R	6-0/210	27	Oakland	.273	140	483	70	132	24	1	21	78	33	79	0
20	Ojeda, Miguel	R/R	6-2/190	29	San Diego	.234	61	141	13	33	6	0	4	22	18	26	1
11	Quintero, Hum.	R/R	6-1/190	24	Mobile	.298	110	386	37	115	26	0	3	52	19	41	0
					San Diego	.217	12	23	1	5	0	0	0	2	1	6	0
	Wilson, Tom	R/R	6-3/220	33	Toronto	.258	96	256	37	66	19	0	5	35	28	80	0

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
33	Burroughs, Sean	L/R	6-2/200	23	San Diego	.286	146	517	62	148	27	6	7	58	44	75	7
	Castro, Bernie	S/R	5-10/165	24	Portland	.309	105	424	57	131	17	5	2	24	25	43	49
	Cirillo, Jeff	R/R	6-1/200	34	Ariz. Mariners	.300	6	20	2	6	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
					Inland Empire	.200	5	15	1	3	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
					Tacoma	.353	5	17	7	6	3	0	2	6	3	3	0
					Seattle	.205	87	258	24	53	11	0	2	23	24	32	1
3	Greene, Khalil	R/R	5-11/210	24	Mobile	.275	59	229	20	63	17	2	3	20	16	55	2
					Portland	.288	76	319	42	92	19	0	10	47	20	52	5
					San Diego	.215	20	65	8	14	4	1	2	6	4	19	0
8	Loretta, Mark	R/R	6-0/186	32	San Diego	.314	154	589	74	185	28	4	13	72	54	62	5
23	Nevin, Phil	R/R	6-2/231	33	Lake Elsinore	.267	5	15	1	4	1	0	0	5	2	2	0
					Portland	.111	6	18	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
					San Diego	.279	59	226	30	63	8	0	13	46	21	44	2
9	Sears, Todd	L/R	6-5/215	28	Minnesota	.246	24	65	7	16	2	0	2	11	7	15	0
					Rochester	.254	80	283	35	72	12	1	7	41	37	90	6
					San Diego	.250	9	8	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	0
1	Vazquez, Ramon	L/R	5-11/170	27	Lake Elsinore	.188	5	16	3	3	0	0	1	4	3	3	0
					San Diego	.261	116	422	56	110	17	4	3	30	52	88	10

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
34	Buchanan, Brian	R/R	6-4/230	30	San Diego	.263	115	198	29	52	10	2	8	29	24	51	6
24	Giles, Brian	L/L	5-10/205	33	Pittsburgh	.299	105	388	70	116	30	4	16	70	85	48	0
					San Diego	.298	29	104	23	31	4	2	4	18	20	10	4
	Guzman, Freddy	S/R	5-10/165	23	Lake Elsinore	.285	70	281	64	80	12	3	2	22	40	60	49
					Mobile	.271	46	177	30	48	5	2	1	11	26	34	38
					Portland	.300	2	10	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
30	Klesko, Ryan	L/L	6-3/220	32	San Diego	.252	121	397	47	100	18	0	21	67	65	83	2
	Long, Terrence	L/L	6-1/202	28	Oakland	.245	140	486	64	119	22	2	14	61	31	67	4
22	Nady, Xavier	R/R	6-0/180	25	Portland	.265	37	136	19	36	7	0	7	23	12	28	0
					San Diego	.267	110	371	50	99	17	1	9	39	24	74	6
	Stanley, Henri	L/L	5-10/185	26	New Orleans	.292	135	506	85	148	28	8	11	48	60	93	15

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

PROJECTED N.L. WEST FINISH: 1ST

GIANTS

By Rich Draper/MLB.com

There are three keys to the Giants' success in 2004: Rotation, rotation, rotation. The starting trio of Jason Schmidt, Kirk Rueter and Jerome Williams is the team's backbone. And the stable pitching—along with slugger Barry Bonds—should propel San Francisco back to the postseason.

The club did not re-sign longtime shortstop Rich Aurilia, reliever Tim Worrell, Gold Glove right fielder Jose Cruz Jr. or starter Sidney Ponson. But the core product remains. First baseman J.T. Snow returns for another season, and closer Robb Nen could be back to full health.

Injuries were a curse in 2003. Trainer Stan Conte lamented one of the team's worst seasons ever as far as dealing with a variety of physical complaints and chronic ailments. Still, the Giants managed to win 100 games.

TSNUMBER

180

Home runs last season, which was 18 fewer than the Giants hit in 2002 and only seventh most in the N.L. Barry Bonds needs offensive help.

The bench will be weaker, but this still is a squad bursting with confidence and maturity, led by a solid manager and a front office determined to keep the team in contention.

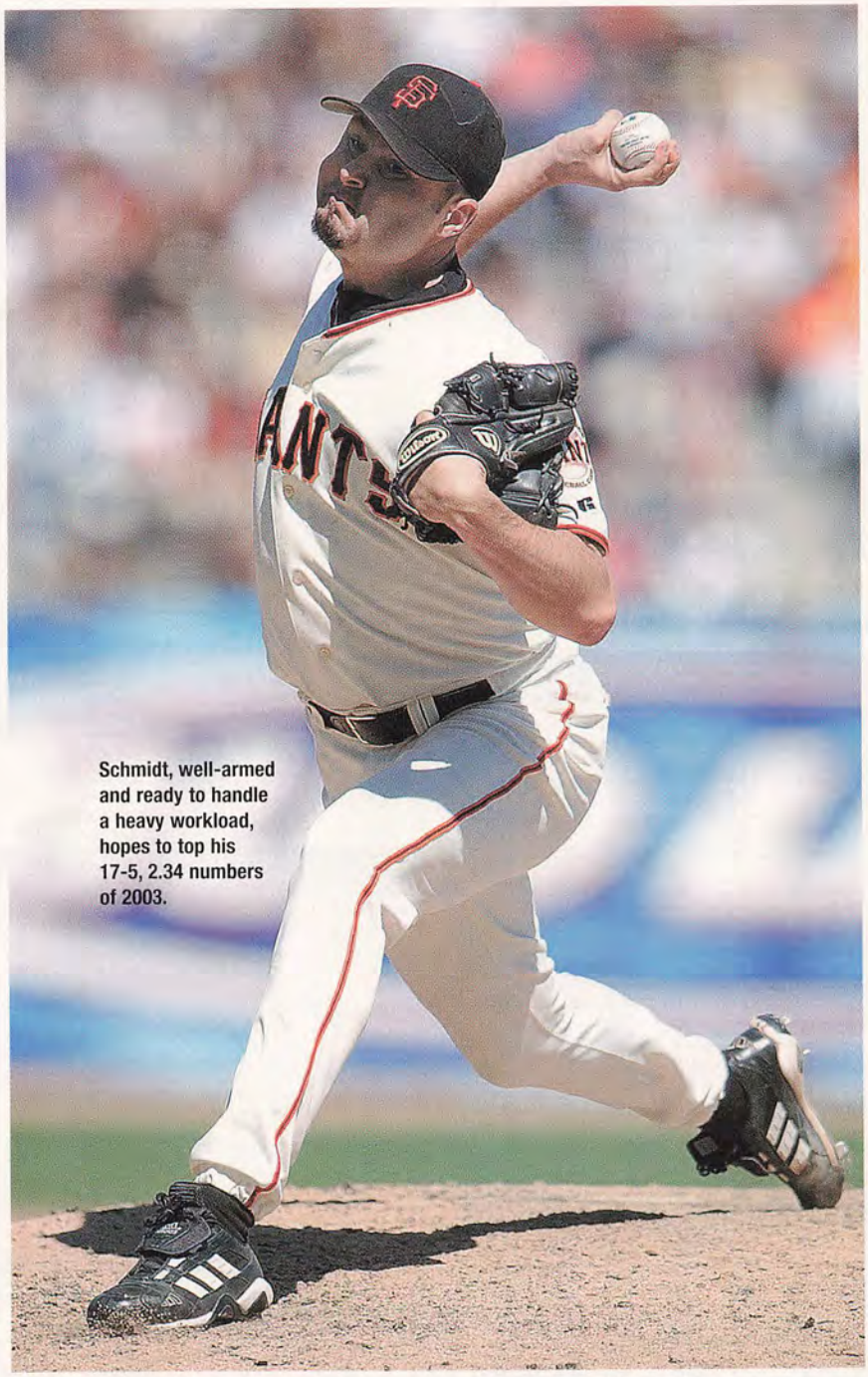
MANAGER Felipe Alou, 68, keeps the pieces of the team glued together. His forte is melding youth and veterans as one, never allowing bench players to get stale and keeping starters fresh. He displayed an uncanny knack for calling on the right players to spark the club and finished fourth in last season's balloting for National League Manager of the Year honors.

Alou brings years of baseball experience to the Giants. Plus, he combines a lighthearted and casual atmosphere in the clubhouse with a no-nonsense approach on the field.

Alou also has surrounded himself with a good coaching staff, which returns intact this season. **GRADE: A-**

ROTATION Schmidt, 31, is coming off a sensational 17-5 campaign with a National League-best 2.34 ERA. Through hard work and intelligence, the righthander has elevated his game to an elite level. And he underwent offseason elbow surgery to correct his chronic arm problems.

There is a lot riding on that arm. Schmidt has been the team's ace since fall 2002. He is a gamer and a leader, and the team cannot afford for him to falter now.



Schmidt, well-armed and ready to handle a heavy workload, hopes to top his 17-5, 2.34 numbers of 2003.

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Rueter should rebound from an off year—a 10-5 record and 4.53 ERA—limited by shoulder tightness. He kept his pain a secret for too long. The veteran finished the 2003 season strong, however, going 3-0 with a 1.99 ERA over his last four outings.

Williams, 22, had a breakthrough season, honing a 7-5 record and 3.30 ERA. He was impressive at times—a shutout and two complete games demonstrated his big upside—and showed surprising maturity against veteran opponents with his deft con-

trol and punishing fastball.

The celebrated youngster should be better and stronger, but he will still have something to prove in his second big-league season.

No one has a lock on the No. 4 and 5 spots in the rotation. While returning righthander Dustin Hermanson and free-agent righthander Brett Tomko are the favorites, Kevin Correia is back after a heady rush that lifted him from Class AA Norwich to the major leagues, where he brashly showed he belonged. Jim Brower started five games and made 46 relief appearances last season. He has found his niche, but may find it difficult to break into a starting job. He was invaluable in his dual role.

There is an impressive righthander named Merkin Valdez rising quickly through the minors, but he is a long shot to make an impact in 2004. The young Dominican led the South Atlantic League in strikeouts last season. **GRADE: B-**

BULLPEN Brower shined in long relief last year and, with Joe Nathan gone, he could remain in the bullpen as a swingman. The potential problem is Nen and his surgically repaired right shoulder. Nen was dominant en route to becoming the Giants' all-time saves leader from 1998-2002, but he sat out last season and is a question mark entering spring training. A return to full strength would help immensely.

Righthander Matt Herges produced a seemingly endless supply of good innings after joining the club last July and was rewarded with a two-year deal. If Nen can't cut it, Herges could step into the closer role. He is a crafty veteran who is unfazed by tough situations.

Lefty Scott Eyre was effective late last season and posted a 1.04 ERA over his final 13 outings. He came out of nowhere to become a stable force in the middle innings.

Setup man Felix Rodriguez, a hard-throwing righthander, is a bullpen fixture. He did not allow a run in 33 of his last 38 appearances, posting a 1.78 ERA over that stretch, and won eight games, bringing his three-year victory total to 25. Does he have a closer's mentality? Nobody is sure, but his talent is scary and he will fit in well whatever his role might be.

Lefthander Jason Christiansen came back from Tommy John surgery but showed rust and pitched hot and cold. If Christiansen can harness his power again, he could be a big factor.

Lefthander Chad Zerbe still is on the bubble and could be replaced if a minor leaguer—maybe David Aardsma or Noah Lowry—breaks through.

The bullpen, rated third best in the National League last season, has a chance to improve again, despite the loss of Worrell. Another dependable arm will be necessary to bolster the staff. **GRADE: B+**

CATCHING There has been an upgrade at the position, thanks to the acquisition of All-Star A.J. Pierzynski, a .300 hitter and a smart defensive player. He replaced aging veteran Benito Santiago and gives the Giants a good arm and a one-two punch with emerging backup Yorvit Torrealba. The latter needs to step up his offense, but he worked capably with the younger Giants staffers. He is maturing quickly and is a future starter.

There was hardly a drop-off defensively from Santiago to Torrealba, but the youngster will have to be patient—again—and succeed in spot duty for the second straight season. That is because Pierzynski is coming off a strong offensive season for the Twins—a .312 average and 74 RBIs. But the emergence of rookie Joe Mauer made him expendable.

Third-string duty will go to journeyman Alberto Castillo, while youngster Trey Lunsford will continue to wait backstage at Class AAA Fresno. **GRADE: B**

INFIELD The Giants appear solid here, although only time will tell if Neifi Perez can be a consistent offensive threat as Aurilia's replacement at shortstop. He is a creative defender with excellent hands, but he hit only .256 last season and doesn't have much power or run-production ability. The Giants will miss Aurilia's gusto and bat. Class AAA shortstop Cody Ransom has yet to break out offensively, but he can provide solid defense off the bench.

Snow returns to first base. He must prove he can stay healthy after an injury-limiting season. He is a game-saver in the field and has a great eye at the plate. He proved vital at getting on base regularly and will do it again if he can avoid nagging groin injuries. Snow returns with a lower salary and perhaps lower expectations, but his competitive nature might translate into another solid year.

Snow's backup will be the versatile Pedro Feliz, a decent infielder with home run potential who was surprisingly strong off the bench last season. Feliz's solid season should boost his confidence and help him step into a bigger role. Hoping to make a move from

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A 15-victory season for LHP **Kirk Rueter**. He tried to pitch through a shoulder problem last season. If healthy, Rueter will improve on the 10 wins he had in 2003, his fewest since joining the Giants.
2. A better season for LF **Barry Bonds**. He was worn down mentally and physically by the illness and eventual death of his father, Bobby. Expect Barry to again reach the 100-RBI plateau.
3. More focus on team speed. The Giants had a league-worst 53 stolen bases last year despite bringing in CF **Marquis Grissom**, 2B **Ray Durham** and RF **Jose Cruz Jr.** A healthier Durham should boost the total.

SCOUTS' VIEW

Observations and opinions by scouts from opposing major league teams:

They do have some question marks, but picking up A.J. Pierzynski was a great move. He'll fit well in the middle of the lineup and is a good receiver. ... It's a good team offensively with Barry Bonds the leader—he's always been a pain but a great player. ... A big question is who is going to replace Tim Worrell if Robb Nen's arm doesn't come back. ... I think Edgardo Alfonzo will have a big year at third. He was too heavy at the start (of last season), out of shape. ... The bullpen is fine with Felix Rodriguez, Matt Herges and Scott Eyre. (Rodriguez) has great stuff and I love his arm and his hard slider. He can overpower people but he doesn't have that closer mentality. ... Jason Schmidt is a horse and Kirk Rueter will give a good effort out there. Hitters are stupid—they always try to hit his changeup outside. But they definitely need a solid No. 3 starter. I'm not sure about [Jerome] Williams or [Kevin] Correia.

GRADING THE LINEUP

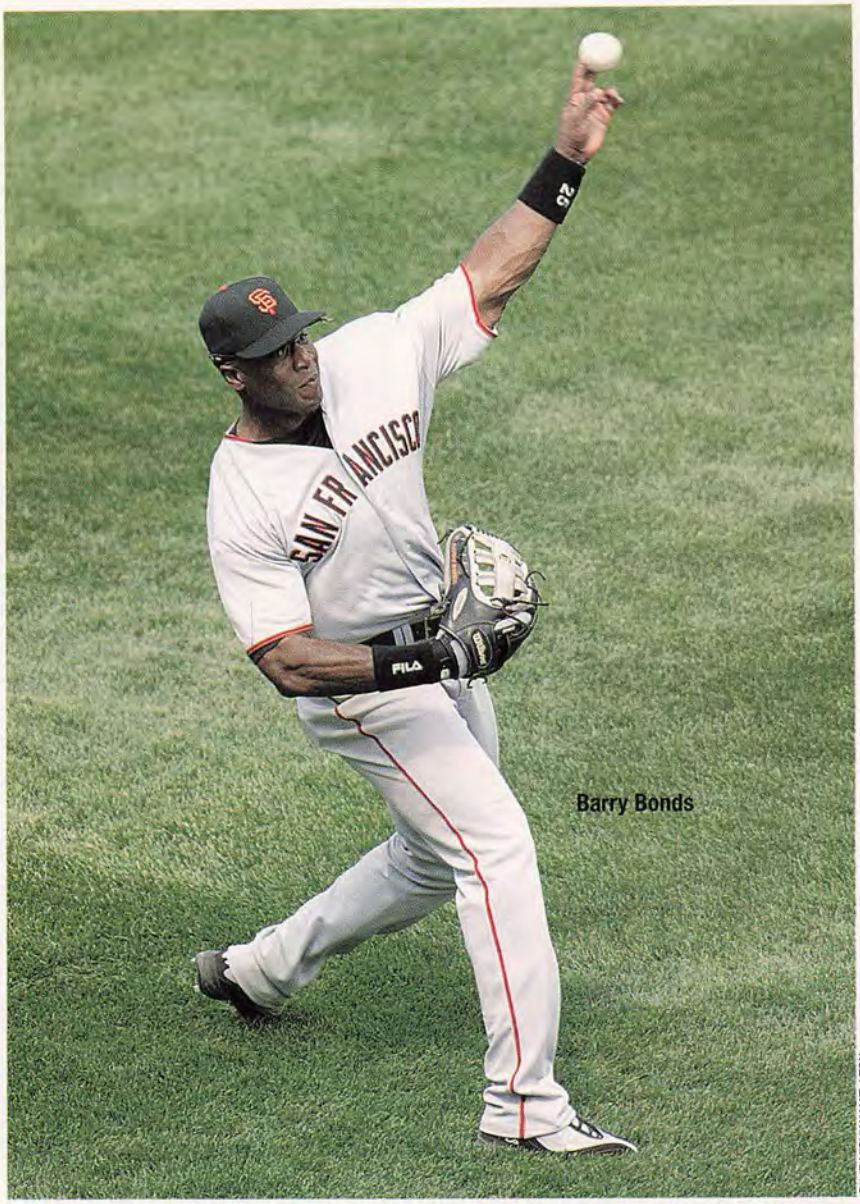
Scale: 8 (best) through 1

1. Ray Durham, 2B	**5**
Great leadoff man, but fragile physically.	
2. J.T. Snow, 1B	**4**
Great defender who hits well in clutch.	
3. Marquis Grissom, CF	**4**
Still has some good years left.	
4. Barry Bonds, LF	**7**
Will still rank among league's top performers.	
5. Edgardo Alfonzo, 3B	**5**
Has a lively bat and excellent hands.	
6. A.J. Pierzynski, C	**6**
Will boost the club's offense.	
7. Neifi Perez, SS	**4**
More playing time could hone his batting skills.	
8. Michael Tucker, RF	**5**
Should be an instant contributor this season.	
Starters	
1. Jason Schmidt, RH	**8**
Will shoot for 20 wins and the Cy Young Award.	
2. Kirk Rueter, LH	**5**
Must reconfirm status as an elite hurler.	
3. Jerome Williams, RH	**6**
Should be even more electric in second season.	
4. Dustin Hermanson, RH	**5**
Giants need veteran to be a pleasant surprise.	
5. Brett Tomko, RH	**4**
His experience could boost bottom of rotation.	
Closer	
Robb Nen, RH	**6**
Can he rebound from major surgery?	
Total	**74**

the minors is Lance Niekro, who played well in the Arizona Fall League.

Leadoff man Ray Durham has the ability to spark a team with his solid bat and outstanding speed. The veteran second baseman needs only to keep his legs from breaking down. Durham was a catalyst last season and can provide even more of a spark in 2004 if he can be more consistent.

Third base belongs to Edgardo Alfonzo. Being out of shape hurt him early last season, but he was sensational over the last two-thirds of the campaign and could return to All-Star form. He helped Bonds immensely when he moved into the No. 5 slot of the batting order. He is smooth and fearless at the hot corner. **GRADE: B**


Barry Bonds

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Giants Data

2003 STATISTICS

Offense	Team	League average
Batting average	.264	.262
Runs	755	747
Hits	1440	1445
Home runs	180	169
Stolen bases	53	81
Pitching/defense	**Team**	**League average**
ERA	3.73	4.28
Complete games	7	6
Saves	43	41
Walks	546	549
Strikeouts	1006	1067
Errors	80	106

WINS AND LOSSES

100-61 (1st in N.L. West), 57-24 at home, 43-37 on road, 14-17 vs. N.L. East, 23-13 vs. N.L. Central, 53-23 vs. N.L. West, 10-8 vs. A.L., 26-11 vs. LH starters, 74-50 vs. RH starters, 99-55 on grass, 1-6 on turf, 31-27 in daytime, 69-34 at night, 28-12 in one-run games, 9-3 in extra-inning games, 0-0-0 in doubleheaders.
Felipe Alou's record: 100-61, 1 season with Giants; 791-778, 11 seasons (Expos, Giants).
Postseason: 1-3, 1 season with Giants.
Team record past five years: 468-340 (.579, ranks 5th in major leagues in that span).

KEY MOVES

Additions: OF Dustan Mohr (trade/Twins), C A.J. Pierzynski (trade/Twins), RHP Brett Tomko (FA/Cardinals), OF Michael Tucker (FA/Royals).
Losses: SS Rich Aurilia (FA), RHP Manny Aybar (FA), OF Marvin Benard (FA), OF Jose Cruz Jr. (FA/Devil Rays), 1B Andres Galarraga (FA), RHP Joe Nathan (trade/Twins), RHP Sidney Ponson (FA), C Benito Santiago (FA/Royals), RHP Tim Worrell (FA/Phillies), 2B Eric Young (FA/Rangers).

MEDIA

Radio: KNBR-AM (680)
Cable TV: Fox Sports Net
Website: giants.mlb.com

MINOR LEAGUES

Class AAA: Fresno (Pacific Coast)
Class AA: Norwich (Eastern)
Class A: Hagerstown (South Atlantic), Salem-Keizer (Northwest), San Jose (California)
Rookie: Arizona Giants (Arizona)

SBC Park

Turf: Grass
Capacity: 41,341
Ticket information: 415-972-2000

Spring training: Scottsdale Stadium (Scottsdale, Ariz.)
Ticket information: 602-990-7972

OUTFIELD Bonds still is the most feared hitter in baseball. He is 56 home runs away from tying Babe Ruth (714) for No. 2 on the all-time career list, a plateau he has an outside chance of scaling in 2004. Bonds, even at age 39, retains a dynamite swing and super power. He led the major leagues with a .749 slugging percentage—while being walked 148 times—and earned his unprecedented sixth N.L. MVP award. He carries a big load on his shoulders, but often seems unaffected by the pressure.

Center fielder Marquis Grissom was rejuvenated last season, hitting the .300 mark for the first time since 1996. He also hit 20 home runs and drove in 79 runs while catching everything he could get his hands on. He was the "Willie Mac" award winner as the team's most inspirational player.

Right field is the mystery spot. Can newcomer Michael Tucker be more than adequate and learn the strange ricochet configuration of the arches and bricks at Pacific Bell Park? Tucker is no luminary, but he should be steady.

And will Jeffrey Hammonds' litany of leg problems disappear for a full season?

Power-hitting Todd Linden showed a glimpse of his potential last year and worked hard in the Arizona Fall League. He could crack the lineup, but more likely will come off of the bench. Speedy Jason Ellison (21 stolen bases) and Tony Torcato (a mid-.290s hitter) both played well at Class AAA Fresno, but they will need playing time to make the jump.

Same, too, with speedy righthanded hitter Carlos Valderrama. **GRADE: C+**

Rich Draper covers the Giants for MLB.com.

Giants Schedule

Home games shaded.
All-Star Game July 13 at Houston. Schedule subject to change.

March/April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 HOU	6 HOU	7 HOU	8 SD	9	10 SD
11 SD	12 MIL	13 MIL	14 MIL	15	16 LA	17 LA
18 LA	19 SD	20 SD	21 SD	22 SD	23 LA	24 LA
25 LA	26 ATL	27 ATL	28 ATL	29 FLA	30 FLA	

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 FLA
2 FLA	3	4 NYM	5 NYM	6 NYM	7 CIN	8 CIN
9 CIN	10	11 PHI	12 PHI	13 PHI	14 PIT	15 PIT
16 PIT	17	18 CHC	19 CHC	20 CHC	21 * MON	22 * MON
23 * MON	24	25 ARI	26 ARI	27 ARI	28 COL	29 COL
30 COL	31 ARI					

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 ARI	2 ARI	3 ARI	4 COL	5 COL
6 COL	7 COL	8 TB	9 TB	10 TB	11 BAL	12 BAL
13 BAL	14	15 TOR	16 TOR	17 TOR	18 BOS	19 BOS
20 BOS	21 LA	22 LA	23 LA	24 LA	25 OAK	26 OAK
27 OAK	28	29 LA	30 LA			

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 LA	2 OAK	3 OAK
4 OAK	5 COL	6 COL	7 COL	8 ARI	9 ARI	10 ARI
11 ARI	12	13 All-Star	14	15 COL	16 COL	17 COL
18 COL	19 ARI	20 ARI	21 SD	22 SD	23 STL	24 STL
25 STL	26 SD	27 SD	28 SD	29 SD	30 STL	31 STL

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 STL	2	3 CIN	4 CIN	5 CIN	6 CHC	7 CHC
8 CHC	9	10 PIT	11 PIT	12 PIT	13 PHI	14 PHI
15 PHI	16 MON	17 MON	18 MON	19	20 NYM	21 NYM
22 NYM	23	24 FLA	25 FLA	26 FLA	27 ATL	28 ATL
29 ATL	30 ATL	31 COL				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 COL	2 COL	3 ARI	4 ARI
5 ARI	6	7 COL	8 COL	9	10 ARI	11 ARI
12 ARI	13	14 MIL	15 MIL	16 MIL	17 SD	18 SD
19 SD	20	21 HOU	22 HOU	23 HOU	24 LA	25 LA
26 LA	27	28 SD	29 SD	30 SD		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 LA	2 LA
3 LA	4	5	6	7	8	9

* San Juan, Puerto Rico

SPRING ROSTER

Manager: Felipe Alou (23). Coaches: Carlos Alfonso (17), Mark Gardner (26), Gene Glynn (15), Joe Lefebvre (18), Luis Pujols (65), Dave Righetti (19), Ron Wotus (10).

No.	PITCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	W-L	ERA	G/GS	Sv.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
38	Brower, Jim	R/R	6-3/215	31	San Francisco	8-5	3.96	51/5	2	100.0	90	48	44	39	65
40	Christiansen, J.	R/L	6-5/241	34	San Jose	0-0	1.93	5/1	0	4.2	5	1	1	3	2
					Fresno	0-0	5.40	4/1	0	5.0	5	3	3	1	2
					San Francisco	0-0	5.19	40/0	0	26.0	25	15	15	11	22
53	Correia, Kevin	R/R	6-3/200	23	Norwich	6-6	3.65	16/14	0	86.1	80	38	35	30	73
					Fresno	1-0	2.84	3/3	0	19.0	16	8	6	2	23
					San Francisco	3-1	3.66	10/7	0	39.1	41	16	16	18	28
48	Eyre, Scott	L/L	6-1/210	31	San Francisco	2-1	3.32	74/0	1	57.0	60	23	21	26	35
34	Foppert, Jesse	R/R	6-6/210	23	Fresno	0-0	1.80	1/1	0	5.0	3	1	1	0	9
					San Jose	0-1	9.00	1/1	0	3.0	5	3	3	0	3
					San Francisco	8-9	5.03	23/21	0	111.0	103	69	62	69	101
48	Herges, Matt	L/R	6-0/205	34	Portland	0-0	1.80	4/0	0	5.0	1	1	1	2	5
					San Diego	2-2	2.86	40/0	3	44.0	40	16	14	20	40
					San Francisco	1-0	2.31	27/0	0	35.0	28	11	9	9	28
32	Hermanson, D.	R/R	6-2/200	31	St. Louis	1-2	5.46	23/0	1	29.2	35	18	18	14	12
					Fresno	0-1	4.85	4/4	0	26.0	29	16	14	3	17
					San Francisco	2-1	3.00	9/6	0	39.0	35	14	13	10	27
43	Jensen, Ryan	R/R	6-0/205	28	San Francisco	0-0	10.80	6/2	0	13.1	21	16	16	5	3
					Fresno	1-10	5.30	27/18	0	103.2	114	70	61	36	50
60	Lowry, Noah	L/L	6-2/190	23	Norwich	9-6	4.72	23/23	0	118.1	127	66	62	47	97
					Fresno	1-0	2.37	4/4	0	19.0	15	5	5	6	13
					San Francisco	0-0	0.00	4/0	0	6.1	1	0	0	2	5
31	Nen, Robb	R/R	6-5/222	34				Did Not Play							
47	Rodriguez, Felix	R/R	6-1/198	31	San Francisco	8-2	3.10	68/0	2	61.0	59	21	21	29	46
46	Rueter, Kirk	L/L	6-3/212	33	Fresno	0-0	0.00	1/1	0	4.2	1	0	0	2	6
					San Francisco	10-5	4.53	27/27	0	147.0	170	77	74	47	41
29	Schmidt, Jason	R/R	6-5/205	31	San Francisco	17-5	2.34	29/29	0	207.2	152	56	54	46	208
	Valdez, Merkin	R/R	6-3/170	22	Hagerstown	9-5	2.25	26/26	0	156.0	119	42	39	49	166
57	Williams, Jerome	R/R	6-3/180	22	Fresno	4-2	2.68	10/10	0	57.0	52	19	17	16	40
					San Francisco	7-5	3.30	21/21	0	131.0	116	54	48	49	88
41	Zerbe, Chad	L/L	6-0/200	31	San Jose	0-0	0.00	2/2	0	3.0	3	2	0	2	1
					Fresno	1-1	2.61	7/0	2	10.1	11	6	3	1	7
					San Francisco	1-1	4.71	33/1	0	49.2	60	26	26	14	17

No.	CATCHERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
37	Castillo, Alberto	R/R	6-0/200	34	Fresno	.235	12	34	2	8	1	0	0	7	8	8	0
					San Francisco	.200	11	15	2	3	1	0	1	4	0	5	0
	Knoedler, Justin	R/R	6-2/210	23	San Jose	.257	101	354	48	91	25	2	10	43	35	78	13
52	Lunsford, Trey	R/R	6-1/195	24	San Francisco	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
					Arizona Giants	.462	5	13	5	6	0	1	0	3	7	3	1
					Salem-Keizer	.300	3	10	0	3	0	0	0	3	2	1	0
					San Jose	.286	2	7	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	4	0
					Fresno	.286	69	206	20	59	10	1	2	20	17	33	0
26	Pierzynski, A.J.	L/R	6-3/220	27	Minnesota	.312	137	487	63	152	35	3	11	74	24	55	3
8	Torrealba, Yorvit	R/R	5-11/180	25	San Francisco	.260	66	200	22	52	10	2	4	29	14	39	1

No.	INFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
13	Alfonzo, Edgardo	R/R	5-11/187	30	San Francisco	.259	142	514	56	133	25	2	13	81	58	41	5
	Athas, Jamie	L/R	6-2/190	24	Norwich	.275	128	444	59	122	14	2	3	41	47	82	12
	Chavez, Angel	R/R	6-1/180	22	San Jose	.280	120	478	69	134	23	6	10	58	22	60	20
5	Durham, Ray	B/R	5-8/180	32	San Francisco	.285	110	410	61	117	30	5	8	33	50	82	7
39	Feliz, Pedro	R/R	6-1/205	26	San Francisco	.247	95	235	31	58	9	3	16	48	10	53	2
28	Niekro, Lance	R/R	6-3/210	25	Fresno	.302	98	381	43	115	15	2	4	41	19	39	3
					San Francisco	.200	5	5	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
1	Perez, Neifi	B/R	6-0/175	28	San Francisco	.256	120	328	27	84	19	4	1	31	14	23	3
2	Ransom, Cody	R/R	6-2/190	28	Fresno	.253	112	396	56	100	16	4	12	50	45	91	14
					San Francisco	.222	20	27	7	6	1	0	1	1	1	11	0
6	Snow, J.T.	L/L	6-2/209	36	San Francisco	.273	103	330	48	90	18	3	8	51	55	55	1

No.	OUTFIELDERS	B/T	Ht./Wt.	Age*	2003 Clubs	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
25	Bonds, Barry	L/L	6-2/228	39	San Francisco	.341	130	390	111	133	22	1	45	90	148	58	7
56	Ellison, Jason	R/R	5-10/180	25	San Francisco	.100	7	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
					Fresno	.295	119	461	74	136	22	4	6	39	39	52	21
9	Grissom, Marquis	R/R	5-11/180	36	San Francisco	.300	149	587	82	176	33	3	20	79	20	82	11
41	Hammonds, J.	R/R	6-0/207	33	Milwaukee	.158	10	38	2	6	2	0	1	3	3	7	0
					Arizona Giants	.500	4	10	4	5	1	1	3	6	1	1	0
					Fresno	.333	11	36	7	12	1	0	2	2	3	3	1
					San Francisco	.277	36	94	20	26	10	0	3	10	13	21	1
50	Linden, Todd	B/R	6-3/210	23	Fresno	.278	125	471	75	131	24	3	11	56	40	105	14
					San Francisco	.211	18	38	2	8	1	0	1	6	1	8	0
	Mohr, Dustan	R/R	6-1/210	27	Minnesota	.250	121	348	50	87	22	0	10	36	33	106	5
20	Torcato, Tony	L/R	6-1/195	24	Fresno	.296	106	423	36	125	18	2	3	48	6	33	4
					San Francisco	.188	14	16	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
	Tucker, Michael	L/R	6-2/195	32	Kansas City	.262	104	389	61	102	20	5	13	55	39	88	8
21	Valderrama, C.	R/R	5-11/175	26	Norwich	.308	65	240	37	74	15	3	1	18	25	34	13
					San Francisco	.143	7	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
					Fresno	.277	54	202	20	56	5	0	3	10	12	28	7

Spring Training Invitees: RHP Brian Cooper, RHP Chris Gissell, RHP Matt Montgomery, LHP Adam Pettyjohn, LHP Kevin Pickford, RHP Tyler Walker, IF Brian Dallimore, IF Francisco Santos, OF Nathan Haynes, OF Robert Stratton.

2003 STATISTICS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING (minimum 502 plate appearances)

BATTING AVERAGE
.326 Bill Mueller, Bos.
.325 Manny Ramirez, Bos.
.324 Derek Jeter, N.Y.
.317 Vernon Wells, Tor.
.317 Magglio Ordonez, Chi.
.315 Garret Anderson, Ana.
.312 Ichiro Suzuki, Sea.
.312 A.J. Pierzynski, Min.
.311 Aubrey Huff, T.B.
.307 Shannon Stewart, Tor.-Min.
.307 Carlos Beltran, K.C.

RUNS
124 Alex Rodriguez, Tex.
120 Nomar Garciaparra, Bos.
118 Vernon Wells, Tor.
117 Carlos Delgado, Tor.
117 Manny Ramirez, Bos.
114 Alfonso Soriano, N.Y.
111 Bret Boone, Sea.
111 Ichiro Suzuki, Sea.
106 Michael Young, Tex.
103 Johnny Damon, Bos.
103 Randy Winn, Sea.

HITS
215 Vernon Wells, Tor.
212 Ichiro Suzki, Sea.
204 Michael Young, Tex.
201 Garret Anderson, Ana.
198 Nomar Garciaparra, Bos.
198 Aubrey Huff, T.B.
198 Alfonso Soriano, N.Y.
192 Magglio Ordonez, Chi.
185 Manny Ramirez, Bos.
184 Rocco Baldelli, T.B.

RBIs
145 Carlos Delgado, Tor.
118 Alex Rodriguez, Tex.
117 Bret Boone, Sea.
117 Vernon Wells, Tor.
116 Garret Anderson, Ana.
113 Carlos Lee, Chi.
112 Rafael Palmeiro, Tex.
107 Jason Giambi, N.Y.
107 Aubrey Huff, T.B.
106 Hideki Matsui, N.Y.
106 Miguel Tejada, Oak.

TOTAL BASES
373 Vernon Wells, Tor.
364 Alex Rodriguez, Tex.
358 Alfonso Soriano, N.Y.
353 Aubrey Huff, T.B.
345 Garret Anderson, Ana.
345 Nomar Garciaparra, Bos.
338 Carlos Delgado, Tor.
334 Manny Ramirez, Bos.
333 Bret Boone, Sea.
331 Magglio Ordonez, Chi.

DOUBLES
49 Garret Anderson, Ana.
49 Vernon Wells, Tor.
47 Aubrey Huff, T.B.
46 Magglio Ordonez, Chi.
45 Eric Hinske, Tor.
45 Bill Mueller, Bos.
44 Shannon Stewart, Tor.-Min.
42 Hideki Matsui, N.Y.
42 Miguel Tejada, Oak.
39 Eric Chavez, Oak.
39 Jay Gibbons, Bal.
39 David Ortiz, Bos.

TRIPLES
14 Cristian Guzman, Min.
13 Nomar Garciaparra, Bos.
10 Carlos Beltran, K.C.
9 Eric Byrnes, Oak.
9 Carl Crawford, T.B.
9 Luis Rivas, Min.
9 Michael Young, Tex.
8 Rocco Baldelli, T.B.
8 Ichiro Suzuki, Sea.
7 Angel Berroa, K.C.
7 Scott Spiezio, Ana.
7 Dmitri Young, Det.

HOME RUNS
47 Alex Rodriguez, Tex.
42 Carlos Delgado, Tor.
42 Frank Thomas, Chi.
41 Jason Giambi, N.Y.
38 Rafael Palmeiro, Tex.
38 Alfonso Soriano, N.Y.
37 Manny Ramirez, Bos.
35 Bret Boone, Sea.
34 Aubrey Huff, T.B.
33 Vernon Wells, Tor.

WALKS
129 Jason Giambi, N.Y.
109 Carlos Delgado, Tor.
100 Erubiel Durazo, Oak.
100 Frank Thomas, Chi.
97 Manny Ramirez, Bos.
93 Jorge Posada, N.Y.
92 Edgar Martinez, Sea.
87 Alex Rodriguez, Tex.
84 John Olerud, Sea.
84 Rafael Palmeiro, Tex.

STRIKEOUTS
140 Jason Giambi, N.Y.
137 Mike Cameron, Sea.
137 Carlos Delgado, Tor.
130 Alfonso Soriano, N.Y.
130 Dmitri Young, Det.
128 Rocco Baldelli, T.B.
126 Alex Rodriguez, Tex.
125 Bret Boone, Sea.
123 Carlos Pena, Det.
120 Mark Teixeira, Tex.

ON-BASE PERCENTAGE
.427 Manny Ramirez, Bos.
.426 Carlos Delgado, Tor.
.412 Jason Giambi, N.Y.
.406 Edgar Martinez, Sea.
.405 Jorge Posada, N.Y.
.398 Bill Mueller, Bos.
.396 Trot Nixon, Bos.
.396 Alex Rodriguez, Tex.
.393 Doug Mientkiewicz, Min.
.393 Derek Jeter, N.Y.
.393 Corey Koskie, Min.

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE
.600 Alex Rodriguez, Tex.
.593 Carlos Delgado, Tor.
.592 David Ortiz, Bos.
.587 Manny Ramirez, Bos.
.578 Trot Nixon, Bos.
.562 Frank Thomas, Chi.
.555 Aubrey Huff, T.B.
.550 Vernon Wells, Tor.
.546 Magglio Ordonez, Chi.
.541 Garret Anderson, Ana.

STOLEN BASES
55 Carl Crawford, T.B.
44 Alex Sanchez, Det.
41 Carlos Beltran, K.C.
35 Alfonso Soriano, N.Y.
34 Ichiro Suzuki, Sea.
30 Johnny Damon, Bos.
27 Rocco Baldelli, T.B.
23 Brian Roberts, Bal.
23 Randy Winn, Sea.
22 Adam Kennedy, Ana.

PITCHING (minimum 162 innings pitched)

EARNED-RUN AVERAGE
2.22 Pedro Martinez, Bos.
2.70 Tim Hudson, Oak.
2.90 Esteban Loaiza, Chi.
3.13 Mark Mulder, Oak.
3.25 Roy Halladay, Tor.
3.30 Jamie Moyer, Sea.
3.30 Barry Zito, Oak.
3.40 Mike Mussina, N.Y.
3.57 Ryan Franklin, Sea.
3.60 C.C. Sabathia, Cle.

WINS
22 Roy Halladay, Tor.
21 Esteban Loaiza, Chi.
21 Jamie Moyer, Sea.
21 Andy Pettitte, N.Y.
17 Roger Clemens, N.Y.
17 Derek Lowe, Bos.
17 Mike Mussina, N.Y,
16 Tim Hudson, Oak.
16 Ramon Ortiz, Ana.
16 Joel Pineiro, Sea.

SAVES
43 Keith Foulke, Oak.
41 Eddie Guardado, Min.
40 Mariano Rivera, N.Y.
36 Jorge Julio, Bal.
33 Troy Percival, Ana.
27 Mike MacDougal, K.C.
26 Lance Carter, T.B.
26 Ugueth Urbina, Tex.
25 Danys Baez, Cle.
16 Shigetoshi Hasegawa, Sea.
16 Byung-Hyun Kim, Bos.

INNINGS PITCHED
266.0 Roy Halladay, Tor.
242.0 Bartolo Colon, Chi.
240.0 Tim Hudson, Oak.
231.2 Barry Zito, Oak.
230.1 Mark Buehrle, Chi.
226.1 Esteban Loaiza, Chi.
217.0 John Thomson, Tex.
215.0 Jamie Moyer, Sea.
214.2 Mike Mussina, N.Y.
213.0 David Wells, N.Y.

HITS ALLOWED
253 Roy Halladay, Tor.
250 Mark Buehrle, Chi.
242 Brad Radke, Min.
242 David Wells, N.Y.
236 Nate Cornejo, Det.
234 John Thomson, Tex.
231 Mike Maroth, Det.
227 Andy Pettitte, N.Y.
227 Kenny Rogers, Min.
223 Bartolo Colon, Chi.
223 John Lackey, Ana.

HOME RUNS ALLOWED
34 Ryan Franklin, Sea.
34 Mike Maroth, Det.
34 Jarrod Washburn, Ana.
32 Brad Radke, Min.
31 Freddy Garcia, Sea.
31 John Lackey, Ana.
31 Darrell May, K.C.
30 Bartolo Colon, Chi.
30 Rick Helling, Bal.
30 Gil Meche, Sea.

BATTING AVERAGE YIELDED
.215 Pedro Martinez, Bos.
.219 Barry Zito, Oak.
.223 Tim Hudson, Oak.
.233 Esteban Loaiza, Chi.
.237 Victor Zambrano, T.B.
.238 Mike Mussina, N.Y.
.241 Joel Pineiro, Sea.
.246 Darrell May, K.C.
.246 Jamie Moyer, Sea.
.246 Tim Wakefield, Bos.

WALKS
106 Victor Zambrano, T.B.
88 Barry Zito, Oak.
80 Jason Johnson, Bal.
78 Kelvim Escobar, Tor.
76 Joel Pineiro, Sea.
74 Jon Garland, Chi.
72 Derek Lowe, Bos.
71 Freddy Garcia, Sea.
71 Tim Wakefield, Bos.
70 Colby Lewis, Tex.

STRIKEOUTS
207 Esteban Loaiza, Chi.
206 Pedro Martinez, Bos.
204 Roy Halladay, Tor.
195 Mike Mussina, N.Y.
190 Roger Clemens, N.Y.
180 Andy Pettitte, N.Y.
173 Bartolo Colon, Chi.
169 Johan Santana, Min.
169 Tim Wakefield, Bos.
162 Tim Hudson, Oak.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING (minimum 502 plate appearances)

BATTING AVERAGE
.359 Albert Pujols, St.L.
.358 Todd Helton, Col.
.341 Barry Bonds, S.F.
.330 Edgar Renteria, St.L.
.330 Gary Sheffield, Atl.
.325 Jason Kendall, Pit.
.316 Marcus Giles, Atl.
.314 Luis Castillo, Fla.
.314 Mark Loretta, S.D.
.314 Mark Grudzielanek, Chi.
.314 Scott Podsednik, Mil.

RUNS
137 Albert Pujols, St.L.
135 Todd Helton, Col.
130 Rafael Furcal, Atl.
126 Gary Sheffield, Atl.
111 Barry Bonds, S.F.
111 Jim Thome, Phi.
110 Lance Berkman, Hou.
109 Jeff Bagwell, Hou.
103 Chipper Jones, Atl.
102 Craig Biggio, Hou.

HITS
212 Albert Pujols, St.L.
209 Todd Helton, Col.
204 Juan Pierre, Fla.
194 Rafael Furcal, Atl.
194 Edgar Renteria, St.L.
191 Jason Kendall, Pit.
190 Gary Sheffield, Atl.
187 Luis Castillo, Fla.
186 Orlando Cabrera, Mon.
185 Mark Loretta, S.D.

RBIs
141 Preston Wilson, Col.
132 Gary Sheffield, Atl.
131 Jim Thome, Phi.
124 Albert Pujols, St.L.
124 Richie Sexson, Mil.
117 Todd Helton, Col.
116 Andruw Jones, Atl.
109 Javy Lopez, Atl.
106 Chipper Jones, Atl.
106 Aramis Ramirez, Chi.

TOTAL BASES
394 Albert Pujols, St.L.
367 Todd Helton, Col.
348 Gary Sheffield, Atl.
332 Richie Sexson, Mil.
331 Jim Thome, Phi.
322 Preston Wilson, Col.
317 Jeff Bagwell, Hou.
314 Javy Lopez, Atl.
308 Luis Gonzalez, Ari.
307 Jay Payton, Col.

DOUBLES
51 Albert Pujols, St.L.
49 Marcus Giles, Atl.
49 Shawn Green, L.A.
49 Todd Helton, Col.
49 Scott Rolen, St.L.
47 Orlando Cabrera, Mon.
47 Edgar Renteria, St.L.
46 Luis Gonzalez, Ari.
44 Craig Biggio, Hou.
43 Richard Hidalgo, Hou.
43 Preston Wilson, Col.

Continued on page 144

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2003 STATISTICS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING (continued)

TRIPLES

10 Steve Finley, Ari.
10 Rafael Furcal, Atl.
8 Kenny Lofton, Pit.-Chi.
8 Scott Podsednik, Mil.
7 Abraham Nunez, Pit.
7 Corey Patterson, Chi.
7 Juan Pierre, Fla.
7 Larry Walker, Col.
6 10 tied

HOME RUNS

47 Jim Thome, Phi.
45 Barry Bonds, S.F.
45 Richie Sexson, Mil.
43 Javy Lopez, Atl.
43 Albert Pujols, St.L.
40 Sammy Sosa, Chi.
39 Jeff Bagwell, Hou.
39 Jim Edmonds, St.L.
39 Gary Sheffield, Atl.
36 Andruw Jones, Atl.
36 Preston Wilson, Col.

WALKS

148 Barry Bonds, S.F.
111 Todd Helton, Col.
111 Jim Thome, Phi.
109 Bobby Abreu, Phi.
107 Lance Berkman, Hou.
105 Brian Giles, Pit.-S.D.
102 Jose Cruz Jr., S.F.
98 Richie Sexson, Mil.
98 Larry Walker, Col.
94 Luis Gonzalez, Ari.
94 Chipper Jones, Atl.

STRIKEOUTS

182 Jim Thome, Phi.
177 Jose Hernandez, Col.-Chi.-Pit.
155 Brad Wilkerson, Mtl.
151 Richie Sexson, Mil.
143 Sammy Sosa, Chi.
142 Pat Burrell, Phi.
139 Preston Wilson, Col.
131 Wes Helms, Mil.
131 Derrek Lee, Fla.
127 Jim Edmonds, St.L.

ON-BASE PERCENTAGE

.529 Barry Bonds, S.F.
.458 Todd Helton, Col.
.439 Albert Pujols, St.L.
.427 Brian Giles, Pit.-S.D.
.422 Larry Walker, Col.
.419 Gary Sheffield, Atl.
.412 Lance Berkman, Hou.
.409 Bobby Abreu, Phi.
.402 Chipper Jones, Atl.
.402 Luis Gonzalez, Ari.

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

.749 Barry Bonds, S.F.
.667 Albert Pujols, St.L.
.630 Todd Helton, Col.
.617 Jim Edmonds, St.L.
.604 Gary Sheffield, Atl.
.573 Jim Thome, Phi.
.572 Richard Hidalgo, Hou.
.553 Sammy Sosa, Chi.
.548 Richie Sexson, Mil.
.538 Geoff Jenkins, Mil.

STOLEN BASES

65 Juan Pierre, Fla.
43 Scott Podsednik, Mil.
40 Dave Roberts, L.A.
34 Edgar Renteria, St.L.
30 Kenny Lofton, Pit.-Chi.
28 Eric Young, Mil.-S.F.
25 Rafael Furcal, Atl.
24 Orlando Cabrera, Mon.
22 Bobby Abreu, Phi.
21 Luis Castillo, Fla.
21 Derrek Lee, Fla.

PITCHING (minimum 162 innings pitched)

EARNED-RUN AVERAGE

2.34 Jason Schmidt, S.F.
2.39 Kevin Brown, L.A.
2.43 Mark Prior, Chi
2.84 Brandon Webb, Ari.
2.95 Curt Schilling, Ari.
3.09 Hideo Nomo, L.A.
3.11 Carlos Zambrano, Chi.
3.20 Kerry Wood, Chi.
3.20 Livan Hernandez, Mon.
3.24 Javier Vazquez, Mon.

WINS

21 Russ Ortiz, Atl.
18 Mark Prior, Chi.
18 Woody Williams, St.L.
17 Jason Schmidt, S.F.
16 Greg Maddux, Atl.
16 Hideo Nomo, L.A.
16 Steve Trachsel, N.Y.
16 Randy Wolf, Phi.
15 Livan Hernandez, Mon.
15 Al Leiter, N.Y.
15 Jeriome Robertson, Hou.

SAVES

55 Eric Gagne, L.A.
45 John Smoltz, Atl.
44 Billy Wagner, Hou.
38 Tim Worrell, S.F.
34 Rocky Biddle, Mon.
33 Joe Borowski, Chi.
29 Matt Mantei, Ari.
28 Braden Looper, Fla.
28 Mike Williams, Pit.-Phi.
24 Jose Mesa, Phi.

INNINGS PITCHED

233.1 Livan Hernandez, Mon.
230.2 Javier Vazquez, Mon.
222.0 Kevin Millwood, Phi.
220.2 Ben Sheets, Mil.
220.2 Woody Williams, St.L.
218.1 Greg Maddux, Atl.
218.1 Hideo Nomo, L.A.
214.0 Carlos Zambrano, Chi.
212.1 Russ Ortiz, Atl.
211.1 Mark Prior, Chi.

HITS ALLOWED

252 Brett Tomko, St.L.
233 Tomo Ohka, Mon.
232 Ben Sheets, Mil.
225 Livan Hernandez, Mon.
225 Greg Maddux, Atl.
220 Woody Williams, St.L.
212 Elmer Dessens, Ari.
212 Jason Jennings, Col.
210 Kevin Millwood, Phi.
206 Brian Lawrence, S.D.

HOME RUNS ALLOWED

36 Wayne Franklin, Mil.
35 Brett Tomko, St.L.
33 Jake Peavy, S.D.
30 Danny Graves, Cin.
30 Garrett Stephenson, St.L.
29 Ben Sheets, Mil.
28 Odalis Perez, L.A.
28 Javier Vazquez, Mon.
27 Livan Hernandez, Mon.
27 Matt Kinney, Mil.
27 Brian Lawrence, S.D.
27 Randy Wolf, Phi.

BATTING AVERAGE YIELDED

.200 Jason Schmidt, S.F.
.203 Kerry Wood, Chi.
.212 Brandon Webb, Ari.
.223 Russ Ortiz, Atl.
.223 Hideo Nomo, L.A.
.227 Matt Clement, Chi.
.229 Javier Vazquez, Mon.
.230 Curt Schilling, Ari.
.231 Mark Prior, Chi.
.233 Kip Wells, Pit.
.233 Randy Wolf, Phi.

WALKS

102 Russ Ortiz, Atl.
101 Kaz Ishii, L.A.
100 Kerry Wood, Chi.
98 Hideo Nomo, L.A.
94 Wayne Franklin, Mil.
94 Al Leiter, N.Y.
94 Carlos Zambrano, Chi.
88 Jason Jennings, Col.
83 Shawn Estes, Chi.
82 Jake Peavy, S.D.

STRIKEOUTS

266 Kerry Wood, Chi.
245 Mark Prior, Chi.
241 Javier Vazquez, Mon.
208 Jason Schmidt, S.F.
194 Curt Schilling, Ari.
185 Kevin Brown, L.A.
178 Livan Hernandez, Mon.
177 Hideo Nomo, L.A.
177 Randy Wolf, Phi.
172 Brandon Webb, Ari.

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